

LIBERTARIAN PARTY® LP NEWS

The Party of Principle®



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■ Waltham, Massachusetts Libertarians Kim Bryant and Rich Aucoin turn in a stack of petition signatures to the city clerk. The signatures qualified a referendum to slash city taxes by \$40 million.

Waltham, Massachusetts Libertarians qualify \$40 million tax-cut initiative

Libertarian activists in Waltham, Massachusetts have won approval for a referendum that could slash city taxes by \$40 million.

On September 3, the Waltham city clerk certified that the Waltham Citizens for Taxpayer Justice organization had submitted 3,097 valid signatures to qualify the question for the November ballot.

Only 2,592 signatures — or 8% of the city's registered voters — were required by law to qualify the initiative.

"[We're] poised to give Massachusetts' big-spending politicians another case of the Libertarian jitters," said Rich Aucoin, head of Waltham Citizens for Taxpayer Justice.

Most immediate

"This is the largest, and most immediate, local tax and spending cut proposal that we've heard of anywhere in America in at least a century," he said.

If passed by voters, the measure would roll back property and business taxes by about \$40 million a

year, and trim the city government's budget by 25%.

The measure would save the average Waltham property taxpayer about \$1,000 per year, said Aucoin.

That may be why, he said, "despite the usual screams of protest from special interests and city officials, we've had an extremely positive response from voters. Most who signed our petition did so without reservation."

If the measure passes, said Aucoin, "City officials will be forced to cancel plans for several lavish and unnecessary new school buildings. School children will be spared forced busing, a side effect of the planned pork-barrel construction."

Aucoin — who is also one of four candidates vying for two at-large seats on the Waltham city council — said he expects the measure to pass.

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In California race, Ned Roscoe earns party endorsement

Ned Roscoe, the retail cigarette company executive who is running for governor of California in the upcoming special recall election, has been endorsed by the state Libertarian Party.

Roscoe was given the thumbs-up via e-mail ballot of the California LP's executive committee on August 16. The tally was 13 votes in favor of endorsing Roscoe, zero votes in opposition, one abstention, and one non-vote, said State Chair Aaron Starr.

More active

"It was the sense of the committee that Roscoe will run a more active campaign" than the other two candidates on the ballot under the Libertarian label, he said.

Accordingly, Ned Roscoe is the Libertarian Party of California endorsed candidate for governor.

"The motion has no legal impact; it only informs our members as to whom we believe best represents us, and behind whom we should galvanize our efforts."

According to the California LP Bylaws (Bylaw 9, Section 7), a candidate can win the official endorse-

ment of the party by earning 10 votes from the 15-member executive committee.

Roscoe will appear on the October 7 ballot along with fellow Libertarian candidates Jack Hickey and Ken Hamidi.

A vote by the California LP executive committee to also endorse Hickey failed with one vote in favor, four votes in opposition, eight abstentions, and two non-votes.

No motion was introduced to endorse Hamidi because "Hamidi doesn't consider himself to be a Libertarian, though he is registered as one," said Starr.

According to Hamidi's campaign website, "Hamidi is registered Libertarian but considers himself Independent."

The three Libertarians will appear on a jam-packed ballot with 132 other candidates, including actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, lieutenant governor Cruz Bustamante, former child actor Gary Coleman, State Senator Tom McClintock, and *Hustler* magazine publisher Larry Flynt.

In all, 50 Democratic, 42 Republican, 32 independent, four Green

See **ROSCOE** Page 5



■ Endorsed candidate Ned Roscoe is on a 41-city campaign tour.

In win for LP, Alabama rejects tax hike

In a big win for Libertarians, Alabama voters have resoundingly defeated an effort to raise taxes by \$1.3 billion a year.

On September 9, in a statewide referendum, Alabama voters rejected — on a 68% to 32% vote — a massive tax increase proposed by Republican Governor Bob Riley.

With more than half of the state's registered voters turning out for the special election, 866,000 voters re-

jected the tax hike, while only 416,000 supported it.

The vote sent "a clear message" to state politicians, said Alabama LP State Chair Mark Bodenhause.

Cut spending

"[The message] is cut spending," he said. "We're taxed enough, and we need to start taking out the [budget] ax."

The Alabama LP was the only po-

litical party to formally oppose the tax hike, and had launched an effort called "VoteNO" to rally opposition to it.

Alabama Libertarians had issued press releases, participated in anti-tax rallies, handed out literature, spoke at local meetings, made alliances with anti-tax Republicans, and distributed "VoteNO" signs and bumperstickers.

See **ALABAMA** Page 2

NEWS BRIEFS

In restructuring, Nick Dunbar loses position

As part of a restructuring of the LP national office's accounting systems, Libertarian Party Operations Director Nick Dunbar has been let go from his position.

"This is part of a reorganization of our entire staff," said LP National Chair Geoffrey Neale. "We have embarked upon cost-reductions programs that have already reduced our overhead significantly. Nick's departure was a result of that reorganization."

Dunbar had served in Washington, DC as the party's operations director — handling accounting, FEC reporting, staff management, and database functions — since March 1998. His last day was August 15.

Many of Dunbar's responsibilities have been handed over to Accounting Supervisor Rod Severson, said Neale.

Severson, an LP member since the mid-1990s, has worked in the accounting field for seven years. A 20-year Army veteran, he has also served for the last four years as the treasurer of the South Carolina LP.

As part of its restructuring operation, the party switched accounting software and plans to install a new database program to allow state and local LP affiliates to retrieve information online, said Neale.

As a result, some of Dunbar's responsibilities had been phased out, and some were better handled by an accountant, said Neale.

Previously, Dunbar had served as LP national director (1989-1993) and as State Chair of the Florida LP (1996-1998).



■ Nick Dunbar: Reorganization.

Print version planned for A Drug War Carol

Libertarian is putting together a print version of a comic book that assails the War on Drugs.

In October, an 80-page, full-color version of *A Drug War Carol* will be published by Big Head Press — which will allow it to reach more people and tell them the truth about the suffering caused by the War on Drugs, said Susan W. Wells.

"If people were to learn the truth, I'm sure the drug war would be over in months," she said.

The comic book — written by Wells, with artwork by by Scott Bieser — will be distributed to the comic book specialty market and the book trade.

A Drug War Carol will feature 64 pages of art, as well as 16 pages of additional information about the War on Drugs and a recommended reading list. It is expected to have a print run of 10,000 copies and a retail price of \$5.95.

In the comic book — which is modeled on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* — the Drug Czar attends a medical marijuana rally in Washington, DC and orders the arrest of a medical marijuana patient.

Later that night, the Drug Czar is visited by the ghost of the first Drug Czar, who shows him the misery caused by the War on Drugs. The Drug Czar sees the error of his ways and publicly repents on Christmas Day — freeing all medical marijuana patients.

To read the online version, visit: www.adrugwarcarol.com.

LP member blows whistle on IRS scheme

Rhode Island Libertarian blew the whistle on a potentially illegal scheme by the IRS — and attracted national media attention in doing so.

The July 22 issue of *Insight* — a national news magazine published by the *Washington Times* — featured a story about LP member Duane Horton entitled "IRS Compromises Taxpayer Privacy."

In 2000, the Portsmouth, R.I. resident had received a promotional mailing from H&R Block, offering a special deal on Kiplinger TaxCut Software. However, Horton noticed that the address on it was one that he only used when filing his taxes with the IRS.

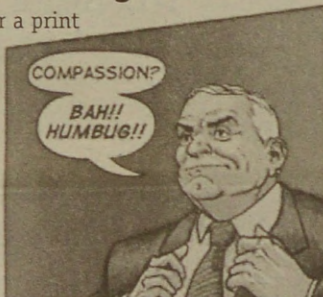
"I suspected that someone in the IRS had provided H&R Block with our name and address, and violated some statute," he told *Insight*.

According to federal law, taxpayers' names and addresses are supposed to be kept confidential by the IRS.

After a series of phone calls and a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, Horton learned that the IRS had indeed sold 500,000 names and addresses to H&R Block.

However, the IRS said the action was not illegal because the address labels were handled by a professional mailing house, and never went directly to H&R Block.

After Horton's research became public, privacy advocates worried that the IRS's "action may set a bad precedent," reported *Insight*.



Alabama LP helps kill tax hike

Continued from Page 1

Other groups working against the tax increase included the Tax Accountability Coalition, the Christian Coalition of Alabama, and the Eagle Forum.

Bodenhausen said it took a "team effort" to defeat the tax hike.

"No one group would have been able to accomplish what we accomplished," he said. "It's a victory for small government advocates."

In Washington, DC, John Berthoud, president of the National Taxpayers Union, said, "The people of Alabama have sent a very clear message: Government takes more than enough of Americans' money to do the essential business of government."

Citizens, government

In the weeks leading up to the tax vote, Alabama LP Legislative Director Stephen Gordon had described the clash as a battle between citizens and the government.

"Sides in this debate are not the traditional demographic groups, like gender, race, or union versus business," he said. "The two sides in this pitched political battle are the government against the people."

To finance their efforts to block the tax, Alabama Libertarians raised considerable sums of money from Republicans, said Alabama LP Ad-

THE VOTE SENT
"a clear message —
cut spending. We're
taxed enough, and
we need to start
taking out the ax."
—Mark Bodenhausen

ministrator Mike Rster.

"We received a substantial amount of money, about 50%, from what many would consider traditional GOP sources," he said. "Folks in Alabama realized that real fiscal conservatives cannot trust the Republicans; one must look to the Libertarians."

The Alabama LP's opposition to the tax hike attracted media coverage in the Birmingham News, the Florence Times Daily, and the Tuscaloosa News, and on Birmingham's Channel 13 News (NBC) and Montgomery's Channel 12 News (NBC), among others.

Had it passed, Riley's proposed 23-part tax "reform" would have cost taxpayers \$1.3 billion annually.

Riley wanted to raise the state's top income tax rate from 5% to 6%

(for an annual cost to taxpayers of \$400 million); tax all property at 100% of its value (\$400 million); raise cigarette taxes from 16.5 cents to 31 cents per pack (\$50 million); and raise the sales tax on cars from 2% to 2.5% (\$48 million.)

Riley's plan would also have increased taxes on leased vehicles, doubled filing fees on deeds and mortgages, and imposed a tax on stocks and bonds.

No person unaffected

"The tax plan will leave no person, family, or business unaffected, and will especially harm homeowners, renters, and seniors living on fixed incomes," said Rster before the vote.

According to Riley, the state faces a \$675 million budget deficit caused by a decline in tax revenues.

But Bodenhausen rejected the idea that Alabama was suffering from a revenue crisis, noting that the state budget had soared from \$12 billion in 1997 to over \$17 billion in 2003.

"The LP believes Alabama does not have a funding crisis, but rather a spending obsession dictated by endemic and systematic problems in almost every department of government," he said.

The executive committee of the Alabama LP had formally voted to oppose the tax increase by unanimous vote on June 29.

Tax-cut initiative qualifies in Waltham

Continued from Page 1

As evidence, he cited a recent poll in *USA Today* that said the property tax is the least-liked tax in the country, with 38% of Americans nationwide calling it the "worst tax."

Aucoin also said the initiative campaign could serve as a template for other Libertarians around the nation.

"Local ballot initiatives with real monetary incentives and local candidates with platforms like mine demonstrate how a local Libertarian campaign can be relevant, exciting, [and] newsworthy," he said.

"I believe this initiative, coupled with my race for city council, has

serious potential to [move] forward our Libertarian movement, because they can serve as a model for activism that is within reach of many Libertarians."

Before city residents get to vote on the initiative, the Waltham city council will have 20 days to consider and pass the measure. If they choose not to do so, it will appear on the November 4 ballot.

Simple majority

To pass, the initiative must be approved by a simple majority of voters, which must also equal at least one-third of the city's total registered voters.

In 2002, Aucoin was the outreach director for Carla Howell's statewide Question One initiative to repeal the state income tax, which won over 45% of the vote. That same year, he was Howell's lieutenant governor running mate.

Waltham, which is located 10 miles west of Boston, has about 59,000 residents.

It has a projected budget for fiscal 2004 of \$155.6 million, with about 60% of the revenue coming from property taxes.

For information about the tax-cut initiative and Aucoin's campaign for Waltham city council, visit: www.richaucoin.com.

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NATIONAL CHAIR:
 Geoffrey J. Neale
 12903 Grubstake Gulch
 Bee Cave, TX 78738-6104
 E-mail: chair@LP.org



LP NEWS EDITOR:
 Bill Winter

LP NEWS PUBLISHER:
 Libertarian National
 Committee, Inc.

EDITOR EMERITUS:
 Karl Hess ♦ 1923-1994

SEND NEWS, LETTERS, ESSAYS,
 PHOTOGRAPHS, OR ADVERTISING:
 Bill Winter
 1640 Worcester Road, #330-D
 Framingham, MA 01702
 Phone: (508) 820-7340
 E-mail: Editor@hq.LP.org

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
 Libertarian Party
 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100
 Washington, DC 20037
 Or call: (202) 333-0008 x 223

The Mission Statement of the Libertarian Party: "To move public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office."

Oregon LP campaigns to kill Ballot Measure 29

Libertarians warn: Pension refinancing plan is really a 'debt trap' that won't save money

The Oregon Libertarian Party has embarked on an ambitious campaign to defeat a ballot measure they call "a parasite on Oregon's budget, economy, and taxpayers."

The state LP held a pair of press conferences in Salem and Portland on August 6 to launch their "Don't Mortgage Our Future" campaign against Ballot Measure 29.

The measure would change Oregon's constitution to allow the state government to refinance public pension debt with bonds. It will appear on the ballot in a special September 16 election.

Following the press conferences, which drew television, radio, and newspaper coverage, Libertarians embarked on a 52-city tour of the state to muster opposition to Measure 29.

Bleed Oregon dry

At each stop, LP State Chair Tom Cox and LP Executive Director Richard Burke warned that Measure 29 is a "debt trap" that won't save money by refinancing the state's Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) debt, but "will bleed Oregon dry."

"Effectively, Measure 29 represents a new tax," said Burke. "Debt can rise with our property values and Measure 29 is not linked specifically to PERS. The measure mortgages our children's future, threatens the retirements of working Oregonians, and effectively repeals our balanced bud-

get requirement."

According to State Treasurer Randall Edwards, Measure 29 will save taxpayers \$45 million a year in interest payments by refinancing \$2 billion of PERS debt. Instead of paying 8% interest on the pension debt, the state would pay only 5% on the bonds, he said.

However, Burke and Cox said Measure 29 opens the door to higher taxes and increased government spending.

Specifically, Cox charged:

■ Measure 29 would allow the state to borrow money for projects and debts other than just PERS.

"Measure 29 does not limit refinancing to PERS debt specifically," said Cox. "Given the high demand for more spending on education and social services, this loophole will prove irresistible to future lawmakers trying to appease unions."

■ Measure 29 contains no limit on how much money the state can borrow.

While it does limit indebtedness to 1% of the real market value of all property in the state, "property values tend to rise over time," noted Cox. So, "under Measure 29, there is no limit to how high the debt can go. [Also], does 'all property in the state' include federal- and state-owned land, as well as taxable properties? Measure 29 does not say."

■ Measure 29 has no sunset provision.

"If Measure 29 were just about



■ Oregon LP State Chair Tom Cox is interviewed about Ballot Measure 29 on the Capitol steps by a reporter from KEZI-TV (Eugene). "We've been getting an amazing amount of press coverage," said Oregon LP Communications Director Jerry DeFoe. "It [is] very exciting to get such positive attention."

refinancing PERS at a lower interest rate, it would cap total indebtedness and automatically sunset Measure 29 bonding authority as soon as the PERS unfunded liability is retired," said Cox. "Measure 29 doesn't do any of these things."

That's why, said Cox, "Measure 29 is a lie, a debt trap, and will be a parasite on Oregon's budget, economy, and taxpayers."

In addition, Measure 29 does nothing to solve the long-term problems with PERS, which has a total

unfunded liability of \$16 billion to \$20 billion, said Cox.

"Our schools, police, and other key services are already suffering from a spending crisis, and PERS is at its center," he said. "With no debt limit, no budget for realized savings, and no real cost controls in place, Measure 29 is a debt trap."

Burke agreed, saying, "Trying to reform PERS is like trying to put Skylab back into orbit. PERS needs to be terminated and replaced. Voters should tell Salem [the state capi-

tal] that we expect better solutions to the PERS crisis than taking out a new credit card."

At the August 6 press conferences, Cox unveiled a Libertarian alternative to Measure 29. The plan included replacing PERS with Public Employee Personal Retirement Accounts (PEPRA), which are 401(k)-style savings accounts.

In addition, the Oregon government could sell assets — such as SAIF Corporation, the state-owned workers' compensation insurance company — to pay for the unfunded pension debt, he said.

Rigorous audits

Cox also proposed a series of cost controls and rigorous auditing systems within state government, and distributed a proposed 2003-2005 state budget that incorporated the reforms.

The Libertarian plan was endorsed by the non-partisan Cascade Policy Institute, economist William B. Connerly of the Oregon-based American Institute for Full Employment, and Richard Morley, a past State Audit Manager for the Oregon Secretary of State's office.

Oregon LP Communications Director Jerry DeFoe said the party is generating "an amazing amount of press coverage" from the anti-Measure 29 campaign.

"Various media outlets came from all over [to attend the August 6 press conferences], and it was very exciting to get such positive attention," he said. "I think we really struck a chord on this one."

Littleton, Colorado set to vote on grocery tax repeal

Libertarians in Littleton, Colorado have qualified an initiative to repeal the town's grocery tax — and have now devised an ambitious plan to try to convince voters to pass it.

In late August, Arapahoe County LP activist Frank Atwood turned in more than the 1,326 valid signatures required by town law to qualify the initiative for the November 4 ballot.

Working with Republican Marty Bolt, Democrat Elwood Johnsen, and other volunteers, Atwood collected 2,147 signatures.

If passed by voters, the initiative would repeal the town's 1% tax on food purchased for home consumption, saving residents about \$600,000 annually.

The grocery tax accounts for less than 2% of the city's annual \$44 million general fund budget. The tax has been in place since 1972.

Atwood said he launched the effort because the grocery tax is "unfair and regressive," and isn't needed to fund the city government.

"By slowing government growth and reducing non-essential expenditures, I feel the city can accomplish this right action of repealing a regressive tax," he said.

He also said the tax "disproportionately taxes the poor."

The initiative is heading for the ballot because on September 2, the Littleton city council declined to pass it. Under city law, the city council gets an opportunity to approve any initiatives.

Similar measure

With two months to convince Littleton voters to pass the tax-cut initiative, Atwood said he has learned from the failure of a similar measure in Montrose, Colorado.

On July 15, Montrose residents rejected a Libertarian-sponsored initiative to repeal the town's 3% grocery tax on a 72%-28% vote.

The key to success in Littleton, said Atwood, will be a comprehensive campaign to market the tax-cut to voters.



■ Frank Atwood (l) and Mark Holden publicize their campaign to repeal the 1% grocery tax in Littleton, Colorado.

"Our current thinking is emphasizing yard signs and door flyers," he said. "Currently, we have more time than money."

The effort could feature up to 300 campaign signs, 18,000 flyers, extensive door-to-door campaigning, and

See **LITTLETON** Page 7

Supreme Court hears campaign finance case

Now it's up to the Supreme Court.

On September 8, the nation's high court heard four hours of oral arguments about the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA).

The Libertarian Party, one of 80 plaintiffs in the case, has asked the Supreme Court to strike down the law because it violates Constitutional free speech protections and imposes unfair burdens on third parties.

Other Libertarian plaintiffs in the case include Harry Browne's RealCampaignReform.org and former LP candidates Michael Cloud and Carla Howell, who argue that the BCRA violates the First Amendment by unfairly strengthening the role of the "institutional press."

Another Libertarian plaintiff is 17-year-old Trevor Southerland. Southerland, a founder of the Catoosa County LP in Georgia, joined the lawsuit because the BCRA made it illegal for minors to contribute to national political parties.

At the Supreme Court hearing in

JUSTICE ANTONIN Scalia noted that the First Amendment prohibits Congress from passing any law to "abridge freedom of speech."

Washington, DC, five lawyers presented the 10 cases that have been consolidated from the 80-plus plaintiffs.

The lead case is *McConnell v. Federal Election Commission*, which the Libertarian Party has signed on to. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), opposed the law when it was being considered by the U.S. Senate.

The BCRA prohibits unlimited con-

See **BCRA** Page 7

POLITICAL NEWS

High school student runs for city council

Andrew Danto doesn't just want to get elected to the O'Hara city council in Pennsylvania.

He also wants class credit.

That's because the 18-year-old is running for office as a Libertarian as part of a project for his American Government & Politics course, which he took at the Fox Chapel Area High School.

"I hope my candidacy provides a choice [for voters] in November," he told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Danto decided to run for office because half his grade in the Government & Politics course was determined by a project that would "bring the textbook to life."

Instead of interviewing a local politician, he resolved to run for office under the Libertarian Party banner.

"I thought, why don't I see how hard it would be for an ordinary person to get on the ballot," he said. "I don't think any of us realized all the red tape involved if you're trying to get your name on the ballot as [a third-party candidate]."

Danto collected 90 signatures, got on the ballot, and has already visited about 2,500 homes as part of his door-to-door campaign.

When meeting with voters, Danto touts his campaign platform: He will work to keep taxes low, to make the town more friendly to small business, and to reduce the number of signatures required to put a referendum on the ballot.

Free State Project votes on new home state

The Free State Project has passed the 5,000-member mark, and is now voting on which state its supporters will move to.

On August 13, Colorado author and privacy activist Boston T. Party became the 5,000th person to join the Free State Project (FSP).

As a result, the group is now polling its members by mail to decide which of 10 states will be the planned recipient of a libertarian migration. On the ballot are: Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, Alaska, and Delaware.

The 10 states were selected based on their small populations, low taxes, a "pro-liberty culture," and a robust job market. According to news reports, New Hampshire and Wyoming are seen as frontrunners.

Ballots are due September 22, and the winning state will be announced on October 1, 2003.

The FSP, the brainchild of Yale graduate student Jason Soren, seeks to get 20,000 small-government supporters to move to one state, where they will work within the political system for "the creation of a society in which the maximum role of civil government is the protection of citizens' rights to life, liberty, and property."

FSP members have pledged to move to the selected state once the group's membership reaches 20,000.

For information about the FSP, visit: www.freestateproject.org



N.D. ethanol-subsidy repeal effort falls short

A Libertarian-led effort to repeal an ethanol-subsidy law in North Dakota has failed, after organizers fell short of the required number of signatures to qualify it for the ballot.

Clint Cooper said anti-ethanol subsidy activists collected "fewer than half" of the 12,844 signatures needed from registered voters by the July 13 deadline.

"We did not succeed because we had far too few volunteers to collect signatures," he said. However, "the few petitioners we had had absolutely no trouble in getting people to sign the petitions."

Cooper, who spearheaded the effort, said he felt "sadness" at the failure of the petition drive.

"I would say that the proponents of a centrally planned economy have once again thoroughly routed the proponents of a free-market economy," he said.

Had the effort qualified, it would have placed an initiative question on the June 2004 statewide ballot, and allowed North Dakota residents to vote on the fate of Senate Bill 2222.

The bill authorized \$1.8 million to build an ethanol plant in Valley City and \$1.3 million to subsidize two existing ethanol plants in Grafton and Walhalla. To pay for the subsidies, the legislature raised motor vehicle registration fees by \$3 a year.

Cooper said SB 2222 takes money from taxpayers and "gives it to huge corporations" like Archer Daniels Midland in the form of ethanol subsidies. According to experts, crop subsidies for the ethanol industry have cost taxpayers more than \$30 billion since 1996.

Oral arguments set for suit against e-voting machines

The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Pasadena, California has agreed to hear oral arguments in a potentially groundbreaking lawsuit filed by a Libertarian against "unverifiable, non-recountable" touchscreen voting machines.

On October 8, three appeals court judges will hear testimony in a lawsuit filed by Susan Marie Weber, the Chair of the Desert Area Libertarians in Palm Desert, California.

The suit seeks to halt the Riverside County, California government from installing and using Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) touchscreen voting machines that produce no paper ballots.

Such machines, which record and tabulate votes electronically using a computerized touchscreen "ballot," are susceptible to fraud, software bugs, and mistakes, charged Weber.

Manipulated

With no paper ballots to verify their accuracy, "voters could never know for sure that their vote had been recorded as they intended, or that their votes, once recorded, would not be manipulated, either fraudulently or by a glitch," she said.

Weber's lawsuit names California Secretary of State Bill Jones and Riverside County Registrar of Voters Mischelle Townsend as defendants.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals had originally scheduled the case to be decided on the basis of written documents, but new developments apparently prompted the court to



■ Susan Marie Weber: Will get to orally present her case before the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Pasadena, California.

request a personal appearance by the two sides to present oral arguments and answer questions, said Weber.

In July, a widely publicized study from the Information Security Institute at Johns Hopkins University revealed that paperless electronic voting machines are susceptible to fraud and tampering.

The study, conducted with the help of researchers from Rice University, found "serious bugs" in the software that runs Diebold Election Systems voting machines, one of the nation's leading manufacturers of electronic voting equipment.

The bugs "could allow one person to cast many electronic votes," reported *New Scientist* magazine, and "could be used to subvert the outcome of an election."

Researchers reported that "common voters, without any insider privileges, can cast unlimited votes without being detected by any mechanisms within the voting system."

The study — which was published online and publicized in major newspapers around the country — may have made the judges realize the significance of her lawsuit, said Weber.

Check and balance

"This report supports our premise that we must have a voter-verified paper ballot to serve as a check and balance to ensure the integrity of the voting procedure," she said.

Weber's lawsuit was originally filed in August 2001, after Riverside County installed Sequoia Voting Systems' AVC Edge System voting machines.

Her lawsuit argues that touchscreen voting systems are illegal under California law, and violate the Fourteenth Amendment's "equal protection" clause. According to California Elections Code §19205, all voting machines must be "safe from fraud or manipulation."

If DRE voting systems are used, Weber asked the court to require printers to be added to the touchscreen machines, to produce a voter-verified paper ballot.

Without a paper ballot, she said, See **E-VOTING** Page 11

Carla Howell won't enter race for LP's 2004 presidential nomination

Carla Howell, who soared to national prominence among Libertarians after her high-profile U.S. Senate campaign against Ted Kennedy in Massachusetts, has announced that she will not seek the party's 2004 presidential nomination.

Instead, Howell said in early September that she will focus on "working on the things I care most about. Where I believe I can have the biggest impact: High-leverage Libertarian projects."

Specifically, Howell said she will work on "mobilizing Libertarian activists" in Massachusetts and around the country to qualify and lobby for "bold" tax-cut initiatives.

In addition, she said, "I am seeking out and working with motivated, committed, and capable activists to research and track government budgets — and uncover ways to substantially cut spending."

Finally, she said she will work with LP activist Michael Cloud to develop "multi-media outreach tools" and training for Libertarian activists.

Howell said that several hundred Libertarians from around the USA had urged her to run for president.

Advance cause

But in the end, Howell said, she decided that a presidential run wasn't the best way to use her "time, skills, and energy to dramatically advance our libertarian cause."

In 2002, Howell's Question One initiative to repeal the income tax in



■ Carla Howell: Tax-cut projects.

Massachusetts shocked the political establishment by earning 45.3% of the vote. In 2000, she won 308,860 votes (12%) in a five-way race against Ted Kennedy for U.S. Senate.

Her campaigns also popularized her "Small government is beautiful" slogan among Libertarians.

Howell's future political activities will be publicized in her Small Government News e-mail newsletter, she said. To sign up, send an e-mail to: subscribe@CarlaHowell.org.

With Howell out, former talk show host Gary Nolan and past Texas state legislature candidate Michael Badnarik — both of whom are actively campaigning around the country — are the apparent frontrunners for the LP presidential nomination.

California resident David Hollist and Louisiana resident Jeffrey Diket have also said they are seeking the party's nomination.

Ned Roscoe earns endorsement from California LP

Continued from Page 1

Party, two Natural Law Party, one American Independent Party, and one Peace and Freedom Party candidates have their names on the ballot in the free-wheeling election that has attracted worldwide media attention.

The two-part ballot will allow California voters to first decide if they wish to recall Democratic Governor Gray Davis. Then, if Davis is recalled, the ballot allows voters to select his replacement.

Roscoe, 42, is the president of the Cigarettes Cheaper chain of stores, which has been called the "nation's leading specialty retailer" of discount tobacco products. The chain has more than 600 stores in 21 states — including about 150 in California — and had estimated sales of \$750 million in 2001.

Roscoe is the son of the company's CEO, John Roscoe. He has a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Chicago (1982). He is married and has three children, who are being homeschooled by his wife.

In 2000, Roscoe sponsored Proposition 28, an effort to repeal the state's 50-cent-a-pack tax on cigarettes. It failed, but did earn 1.3 million votes.

Since qualifying for the gubernatorial ballot, Roscoe has been running by far the most active campaign of the three Libertarian contenders.

He participated in a five-way, 90-minute debate held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Walnut Creek on September 5.

The debate, sponsored by *Family Digest*, a local magazine aimed at African-American readers, featured five candidates: Roscoe, along with Democrat Jonathon Miller, Republican Jon Zellhoefer, independent Darryl Mobley, and Democrat Cheryl Bly-Chester.

No new, stupid laws

In the debate, Roscoe reiterated his basic campaign themes, saying, "Californians all pay too much in taxes. They want no new, stupid laws. They want somebody to get the work done."

In addition, Roscoe has made campaign appearances at Cigarettes Cheaper stores in Pleasanton, Tracy, Livermore, Turlock, Santa Rosa, Grass Valley, and Napa, as part of a 41-city swing through the state.

He also campaigned at a minor league baseball game between the Modesto A's and the High Desert Thunderbolts.

At one stop, Roscoe told the *Pleasanton Tri-Valley Herald*, "My campaign platform is pretty simple: No new taxes, no stupid new laws, and step up to get the work of the government done."

His campaign will try to appeal to "smokers, those who follow politics strongly and agree [with] our principles, and Libertarians," he said. "The recall election gives us an unprecedented chance to advocate smokers' rights and less regulations."

While his campaign is focusing on smoker's rights, Roscoe said he also

wants to repeal the state's vehicle registration tax, reduce regulations, and offer the state's 60,000 workers early-retirement packages.

Roscoe said his plan to turn the state around is "not rocket science."

"The governor needs to work with the legislature to stop the spending addiction and do things that make sense," he said. "But if the legislature won't listen to reason, the governor has the power to shut the build-

**"I'D RATHER WORK
with cooperation
than acrimony,
but I'm ready to
rumble if that's
what it takes."**

ing down until California gets structural reform and a government it can trust. I'd rather work with cooperation than acrimony, but I'm ready to rumble if that's what it takes."

If he gets enough votes from California's 4 million smokers, Roscoe said his low-budget campaign could be a success.

"If I can get just half of [the state's smokers] to vote for a smokers' candidate, that might be enough

to win," he said.

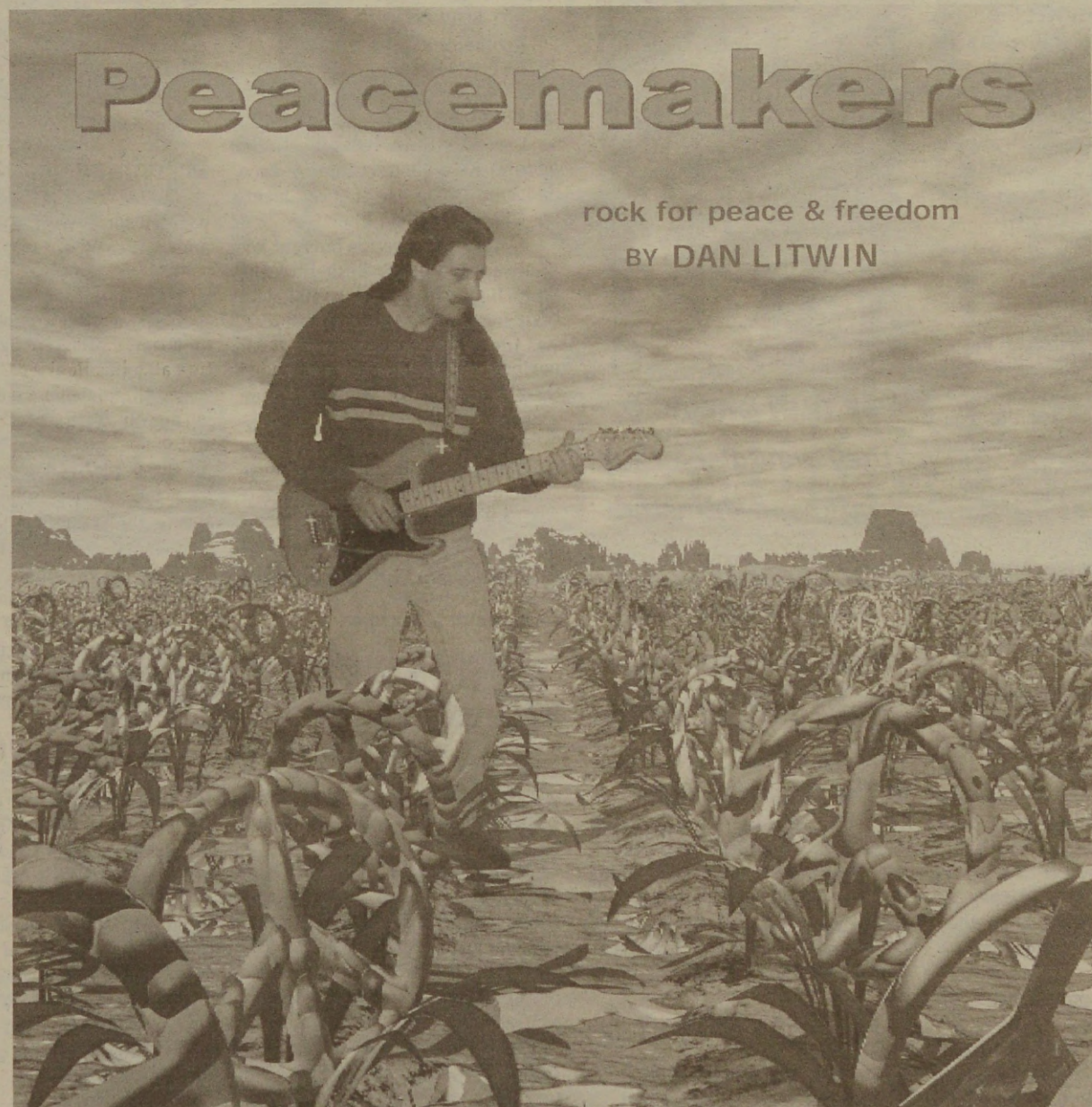
And even if he doesn't win, a sufficiently large number of votes will "send a powerful message to lawmakers," he said.

For more information about Ned Roscoe's campaign, visit: www.SmokersParty.com. (Roscoe is running under the informal umbrella of the "Smoker's Party," which is not a recognized political party in the state.)

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Tom Hohman, LP San Diego



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Dan Litwin is a Life Member of the Libertarian Party, who is determined to help get our word out.

TALKING POINTS

A no-brainer truth about Africa, and why God loves higher taxes

■ Pay a quarter

There are proposals floating around in New Zealand now to tax, ahem, livestock flatulence. Supposedly it's about regulating greenhouse emissions.

There might be one good side effect of the new tax. The politicians would have to pay a quarter every time they open their mouths.

— PAUL JACOB, *Common Sense*
August 21, 2003

■ Brilliant advice

New York City's new 16-page anti-terrorist preparedness manual, produced by a consortium of 20 government agencies and released in July, contains such advice as: If you encounter radiation, go outside (if you're inside a building) or go inside (if you're outside a building).

— NEWS OF THE WEIRD
August 31, 2003

■ Gassing off

California Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante proposed amending the California state constitution to allow the Public Utilities Commission to regulate gasoline prices. "Californians are being gouged," he charged.

Unfortunately, the movement to control gasoline prices is not limited to California. In Washington, Congressman Edward Markey (D-MA), and Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), have been pressuring the Energy Department to take action against high gasoline prices.

Apparently, neither has bothered to learn the facts of the situation before lashing out at the oil companies. If they checked, they would see that real (inflation-adjusted) gasoline prices are about where they have been for most of the last 20 years.

The recent run-up is from a historically low level. Even so, they are still substantially lower than they were in 1981: \$1.79 per gallon now versus \$2.74 then.

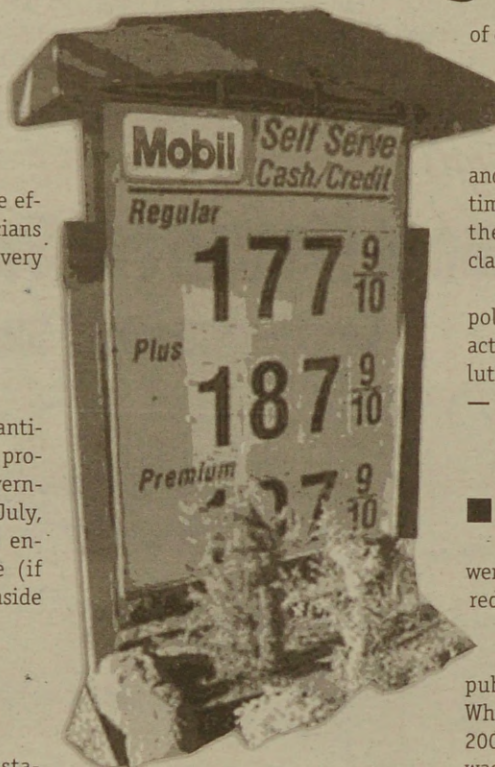
And contrary to popular belief, oil company profits are not rising. According to *Business Week*, the profit margin in the oil industry is only 5.4%, compared with 6.4% for all industries.

— BRUCE BARTLETT, *TownHall.com*
September 2, 2003

■ Mission creep

North Carolina officials have found a new use for anti-terrorism laws. District attorneys in several counties have begun charging people accused of operating methamphetamine labs under laws banning the creation of nuclear or chemical weapons.

— CHARLES OLIVER
Reason Online
August 29, 2003



IF THEY CHECKED, they would see that inflation-adjusted gasoline prices are about where they have been for most of the last 20 years.

■ The forgotten right

When Rep. Roger Wicker (R-MS) asked high school seniors in his district to name some unalienable rights [as delineated in the Declaration of Independence], he got silence. So the Congressman gave the advanced-placement history students some help.

"Among these are life," Wicker said, "and ..."

"Death?" one student said.
— PHIL BRENNAN, *NewsMax.com*
August 20, 2003

■ Air scare

The United States has made dramatic progress in reducing air pollution over the past few decades, and most American cities now enjoy relatively good air quality.

But polls show most Americans believe air pollution has grown worse or will become worse in the future. They also believe most people face serious risks from air pollution.

This disconnect between perception and reality is, in part, the result

of environmental activists' exaggerations of air pollution levels and risks, which make air pollution appear to be increasing when in fact it has been declining. State and federal regulatory agencies sometimes also resort to such tactics, and the media generally report those claims uncritically.

As a result, public fears over air pollution are out of proportion to the actual risks posed by current air pollution levels.

— JOEL SCHWARTZ
Environment News
September 2003

■ How naive?

I used to think that Republicans were interested in restraining — even reducing — the size of government.

How naive could I be?
The 2000 election brought Republican George W. Bush into the White House. [However], spending for 2002 leapt by 7.9%, while inflation was running at 1.1%. And for 2003, outlays again are projected to jump by 7.9%, with inflation expected around 2%. Yikes!

When it comes to spending, the Republican-controlled White House and Congress have failed miserably. In fact, judging by their record so far, the current Republicans in power are turning out to be bigger spenders than the Democrats.

— RAYMOND J. KEATING
Small Business Survival
Committee, August 27, 2003

■ Too difficult

If the Founders were here today, what would they think of a federal government that spends 20% of the country's GDP and runs up a \$400 billion deficit in a single year?

Would they be pleased that government owns and operates the schools 90% of our children attend, pays for 40% of all health care expenditures, [and] forces the top 10% of income earners to pay two-thirds of federal taxes?

More importantly, what would we say to them? That their experiment just didn't work? That we tried freedom but it was just too difficult?

— JOSEPH L. BAST, *Heartlander*
September 2003

■ African no-brainer

Anyone who believes President Bush's Africa initiative, including sending U.S. troops to Liberia, will amount to more than a hill of beans is whistling Dixie.

Maybe it's overly pessimistic, but most of Africa is a continent without much hope for its people. Let's look at it.

According to Genocide Watch,

since 1960, around the time of independence, about 9 million black Africans have been slaughtered through genocide, politicide and mass murder. The Democratic Republic of the Congo leads the way with 2,095,000, closely followed by the Sudan with 2 million, Nigeria and Mozambique with a million each, Ethiopia 855,000, Rwanda 823,000, Uganda 555,000 and hundreds of thousands more in other countries.

President Bush has pledged to send more foreign aid to some African nations. Foreign aid has historically gone to governments. Instead of helping the poor, foreign aid has enabled African tyrants to buy cro- nies and military equipment to stay in power, not to mention establishing multibillion dollar "retirement" accounts in Swiss banks.

What African countries need, the West cannot give. In a word, what Africans need is personal liberty. That means a political system where there are guarantees of private property rights and rule of law. It's almost a no-brainer.

— WALTER WILLIAMS
Capitalism Magazine
September 1, 2003

■ Training gerbils

Our tax code has more than 40,000 pages of social engineering, which is an insult to all Americans.

The tax code treats Americans like so many gerbils — do this and you get sugar water, do that and you get an electric shock.

— ED CRANE
WashingtonPost.com
August 21, 2003

■ God loves taxes

It has long been said that patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel. Today, religion plays that role. At least it does for Gov. Bob Riley of Alabama, who is pushing a massive tax hike in the name of God.

Alabama's Riley, a Republican, has proposed a \$1.2 billion annual tax hike — about \$1,200 per family — for Alabama citizens.

Instead of relying on the proposal's supposed merits, he's citing a higher authority: God.

"According to our Christian ethics, we're supposed to love God, love each other, and help take care of the poor." True, but what does that have to do with higher taxes?

The real meaning of compassion is for us to personally aid and suffer with those in need. Whatever the prudential argument for government welfare, it is a matter of public policy, not Christian theology.

— DOUG BANDOW
Cato Institute Daily Dispatch
August 30, 2003

■ Making us safer I

Postwar Iraq has become what many U.S. intelligence officials feared and some predicted: a magnet for terrorists, who are finding shelter among a people growing more disaffected by the American-led occupation of their country.

The American commander of allied forces in Iraq, Gen. John Abizaid, confirmed the obvious after the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad was

bombed: Terrorism is "the number one security threat in Iraq."

Foreign terrorists are streaming over the border to join forces with local guerrillas, the general warned.

— KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

August 22, 2003

■ Making us safer II

The United States ranks fourth among countries most likely to be targeted by terrorists next year, according to an index assessing the risk of 186 countries.

The London-based World Markets Research Centre ranked Colombia, Israel, Pakistan, the United States, and the Philippines as the five countries most likely to be targeted in a terrorist attack in the next year.

"Another Sept. 11-style terrorist attack in the United States is highly likely," the report states, "[in part because] U.S.-led military action in Afghanistan and Iraq has exacerbated anti-U.S. sentiment."

— AUDREY WOODS
The Winnipeg Sun (Canada)
August 18, 2003

"A PATRIOT MUST ALWAYS BE READY TO DEFEND HIS COUNTRY AGAINST HIS GOVERNMENT."

— EDWARD ABBEY—

As a Libertarian, you have accepted the responsibility of protecting your country against the excesses of your government. Your tool of choice: The Libertarian Party. But in order to make the Libertarian Party as effective as possible, we need your help. The good news is, there's an easy way you can contribute: Simply name the party in your will or insurance policy. For a confidential discussion of this option, call National LP Treasurer Bill Redpath at:

(703) 802-2978.

Or e-mail him at: wredpath@his.com.



U.S. Supreme Court hears arguments about BCRA

Continued from Page 3

tributions of "soft money" to national parties for party-building purposes, and limits the kind of political advertising that can be run in the final months before federal elections.

The court heard two hours of testimony in the morning about the soft-money issue, and two hours in the afternoon about the limits on advertising.

Former special prosecutor Kenneth Starr, who is representing the McConnell coalition, charged that the law "intrudes deeply into the political life of the nation."

Split four to four?

According to news reports, the Supreme Court appeared to be split four to four on the merits of the law, with the one remaining justice as the apparent "swing vote."

Three justices — Antonin Scalia, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Anthony M. Kennedy — seemed broadly opposed to the law. Justice Clarence Thomas also has a history of voting against campaign finance regulations.

On the other side, speaking out in favor of BCRA, were Stephen G. Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, David H. Souter, and John Paul Stevens.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor gave little indication where she stood, and could be the deciding vote, according to court watchers.

During the discussion, Justice Scalia noted that the First Amendment prohibits Congress from passing any law to "abridge freedom of speech."

"How is there a way around that?" he asked.

However, Justice Scalia argued that the law was needed to curb the "corrupting" power of wealthy individuals, whom he referred to as "Joe Wealthy" and "Joe Moneybags."

The Supreme Court is expected to

issue a decision by December.

Earlier this year, LP Chair Geoffrey Neale charged that, "in an attempt to reduce corruption among Democrats and Republicans, the BCRA stifled political speech and imposed massive regulations that make it harder for third parties to compete."

"The only way to reduce the influence of money in politics is to reduce the size and power of government," he said. "If Congress had noth-

KENNETH STARR
charged that the
campaign finance
law "intrudes deeply
into the political life
of the nation."

ing to sell, special interests would have nothing to buy."

Other plaintiffs in the lawsuit include U.S. Representative Ron Paul (R-TX), the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the NRA, the National Right to Life Committee, the James Madison Center for Free Speech, the AFL-CIO, the Republican National Committee, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the National Association of Broadcasters.

The BCRA had been known as the McCain-Feingold bill as it was moving through the U.S. House and U.S. Senate. It was signed into law by President George Bush in March 2002.

The case made it to the Supreme Court after a U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, DC struck down nine of the law's 20 provisions in a complicated 1,600-page decision that the Libertarian Party called a "partial victory" for smaller parties.

Littleton gets set to decide on grocery tax

Continued from Page 3

phone calls, he said.

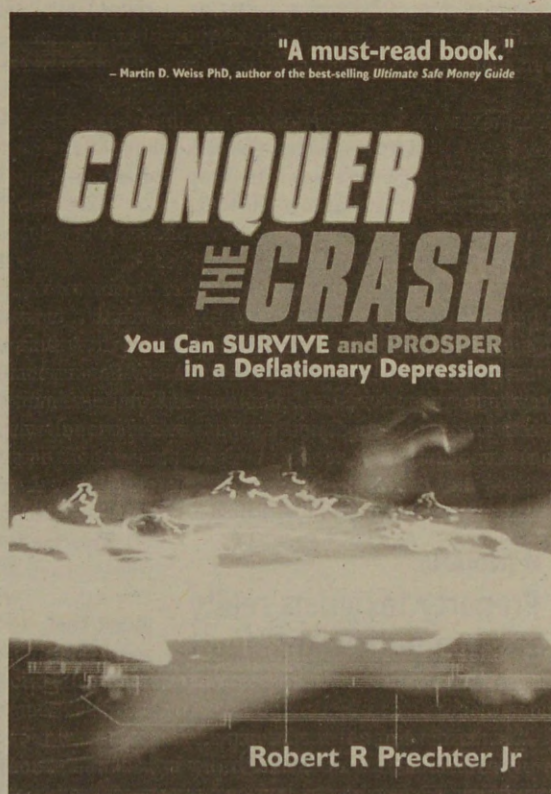
If he can get volunteers to contribute 1,000 hours of work, passing the grocery tax repeal is "an attainable goal," said Atwood.

Bolstering Atwood's efforts was support from the state's largest newspaper, the *Denver Post*. On August 26, the newspaper editorialized: "We believe that it could be a positive step for Littleton to repeal its sales tax on groceries."

If passed by voters, the grocery tax repeal would be phased in, with half going in effect in January 2004 and the other half in January 2005.

Littleton has a population of about 40,000. It is located 10 miles from downtown Denver.

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AFFILIATE NEWS

Libertarians offer blog buzz, a blackout perspective, and USA/Patriot Act advice

■ COLORADO

Budget solution: Release peaceful drug prisoners

If the state government really wants to solve its fiscal crisis, it should start by releasing people imprisoned for nonviolent drug crimes, says the Colorado LP.

"Libertarians find it quite ironic that the state of Colorado simultaneously struggles with a major fiscal shortfall, but the General Assembly and Governor [Bill] Owens authorize \$103 million for a new prison," said Colorado LP State Chair **Norm Olsen** on August 7. "Yet [the state] refuses to change its policy of imprisoning nonviolent drug, and other nonviolent criminal, offenders."

According to new figures, Colorado ranks among the top three states in the annual growth of its prison population. The number of people serving time in the state grew by 7.9% last year.

Colorado politicians could solve both the budget crunch and the prison overcrowding problem by changing its policy of imprisoning people for nonviolent drug-related crimes, said Olsen.

"Libertarians do not endorse, promote, or encourage drug use," he said. "But we totally reject the idea of imprisoning those nonviolent individuals who choose to do so."

According to financial forecasters, Colorado faces a \$1.5 billion budget shortfall this year and next.

■ COLORADO

El Paso County LP says: Repeal gun ordinance

A decision by the Colorado Springs City Council not to repeal a "blatantly unconstitutional ordinance" prohibiting weapons in government buildings should make city residents "none too happy," say local Libertarians.

"Individual possession of firearms is an integral part of our unique American culture of freedom and liberty," said El Paso County LP Chair **Ross Gildewell** on August 12. "The city council should be leading by example in this and all cases when it comes to public policy."

Earlier in 2003, all but one city council member said they supported the right to carry firearms in city buildings. Since then, however, they have declined to repeal an ordinance that bans both openly carried and concealed weapons, arguing that council meetings are "highly emotional events."

By not repealing the ordinance, "the Colorado Springs City Council has decided to cower in fear and ignore the rule of law," said Gildewell.



Photo from The Free State Libertarian

Maryland Libertarians prepare to enjoy steamed crabs (and politics)

■ **Maryland Libertarians pose at the 27th Annual J. Millard Tawes Crab and Clam Bake in Chrisfield on July 16. Shown here (l-r): Robert Glaser, Michael Linder, Kurt Saberg, Rachel Ridout, Chuck Andrasco, Ruth Andrasco, Spear Lancaster, and State Chair Charles "Chip" Spangler.**

The Crab and Clam Bake is widely considered one of the premier political events of the year in Maryland, drawing more than 5,000 attendees and dozens of state politicians. The event also features an all-you-can-eat buffet of steamed crabs, fried fish, clams, and more.

According to the Colorado state constitution, the right to carry weapons "shall not be called into question."

That's why the El Paso County LP opposes the ordinance, and urged the city council "to reject the fear mongering behind it, to do the right thing, and endorse the rights of the people to open carry," said Gildewell.

■ CONNECTICUT

State LP: USA/Patriot Act violates citizens' rights

The Connecticut LP has formally called for the repeal of the USA/Patriot Act, calling it a "violation of fundamental rights."

On August 4, Connecticut LP State Chair **Lenny Rasch** issued a public statement on behalf of the party membership, denouncing the anti-terrorism bill.

"The Libertarian Party of Connecticut condemns the USA/Patriot Act as a violation of fundamental rights," said Rasch. "This Act erodes the traditional American rights to privacy from government, protection from unreasonable searches and seizures, and due process of law."

As a result, Connecticut Libertarians "call for repeal of the Patriot Act, and we oppose any further expansion

of it," he said. "We further hold that security does not require giving up rights. Indeed, true security depends on freedom, on self-responsibility, [and] on self-defense."

If the United States government genuinely wants to reduce the risk of terrorism, the best way is to "stop interfering in the affairs of other nations, and to re-adopt the words of our first president, George Washington, who stated that the United States should pursue 'peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations — entangling alliances with none,'" said Rasch.

A resolution opposing the USA/Patriot Act was passed by Connecticut LP members at their state convention, held July 12 in New Haven.

■ INDIANA

Property tax crisis really is state politicians' fault

A state politician who claimed the state Supreme Court is to blame for

high property taxes "needs to take civics class," said Libertarians.

Speaker of the Indiana House Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend) told the *South Bend Tribune* that citizens who are mad about skyrocketing property-tax bills should complain to the Indiana Supreme Court.

"Take it to the judge," said Bauer.

The Indiana Supreme Court had ordered changes in the state's property tax system in 1998, after finding that owners were being hit with significantly different tax assessments for similarly valued properties.

But the buck-passing politician has it all wrong, said state LP Executive Director **Brad Klopfenstein**: The legislative branch writes the laws and spends the money.

"This mess is the fault of those who wrote — or didn't write — property-tax laws when the court rightly found them to be unfair. Taxpayers want the mess cleaned up. We don't want whining and inane excuses from those who created the mess."

Apparently, theorized Klopfenstein, "Bauer was sleeping when his teacher went over the part about separation of powers. Either that, or he doesn't want to take the blame for what is greatly his fault."

■ MASSACHUSETTS

New .08 drunk-driving law is federal blackmail

A new drunk-driving law was signed by the governor because of "bribery and blackmail," Massachusetts Libertarians have charged.

On July 3, Republican Governor Mitt Romney signed a law that made a blood-alcohol level of .08 — rather than the previous 1.0 level — legal proof of intoxication. The federal government had threatened to withhold highway funds unless the state changed its law.

"By signing this legislation, Romney has sold Massachusetts down the river, handing over even more of our Tenth Amendment protections," said Massachusetts LP State Chair **Kamal Jain**. "This practice amounts to bribery and blackmail."

Rich Aucoin, the 2002 LP candidate for lieutenant governor, agreed.

"This is a clear overstep by the federal government," he said. "The Tenth Amendment says that if a particular power is not enumerated in the Constitution, then the individual states are to decide that issue."

"In recent decades, however, the federal government has found a way to skirt the Tenth Amendment: Threaten to withhold federal funds if states refuse to pass new federal laws. As a result, virtually every state now marches in lock step with whatever the federal government demands."

■ MINNESOTA

Libertarian's new blog generates visitors, buzz

A state Libertarian's blog is becoming increasingly popular.

Since being launched in May, **Bob Smith's** "No Force, No Fraud" blog — a "weblog," or online column — has grown to attract 200 to 300 readers a day. Over the past two months, the column has attracted about 10,000 readers.

The blog, which appears almost daily on Babelogue, a section of the Minneapolis/St. Paul *City Pages* magazine's website that features 20+ blogs, is written primarily to help non-libertarians "understand the libertarian ideology," said Smith.

"You'll find a variety of subjects, such as introducing private solutions that surpass government programs, rants about destructive government programs, and explaining libertarian positions on current issues," he said.

The blog is also attracting attention from other websites, said Smith: On July 26, it was named Website of the Day by CounterPunch.com, and a

Miss Liberty's Guide to Film and Video
The definitive guide to Libertarian film. A great gift!
Laissez-Faire Books ~ Amazon.com ~ MissLiberty.com

series on education was called a "must-read" by a homeschooling web-site.

Smith said he hopes his blog continues to grow in popularity.

"The higher readership rises, the more non-libertarians will read it and discuss libertarian ideas, and that's of value to all of us," he said.

To read the blog, visit: <http://babelogue.citypages.com:8080/bsmith/>

■ NEVADA

Libertarian rallies group against USA/Patriot Act

A Reno Libertarian has helped organize a group of state residents to fight the USA/Patriot Act.

Bob Tregilus, chair of the Washoe County LP, has been the driving force behind the Nevada Coalition to Defeat the Patriot Act (NCDPA).

The NCDPA, which held its first meeting in July, will work to educate Nevadans about the dangers of the USA/Patriot Act, and will lobby city and town governments to pass resolutions opposing the law.

"What we found is that people have no idea what the Patriot Act is," Tregilus told the *Reno News & Review*.

Given that the group contains members of all political persuasions — from the right-wing Nevada Families Eagle Forum to the left-wing American Civil Liberties Union — Tregilus said they agreed to focus just on the USA/Patriot Act.

"We stay strictly focused on the issue," he said. "We try to respect differing political views and stay away from discussions of divisive political topics."

■ NEW YORK

Blackout not caused by deregulation, says party

The blackout that plunged New York and other states into darkness on August 14-15 was not the result of a deregulated electrical industry, say New York Libertarians — but the result of the government's "sham" deregulation.

Politicians who blame the cascading failure of the East Coast power grid on "deregulation" are on shaky ground, said New York LP State Chair **John Clifton** in an August 25 statement.

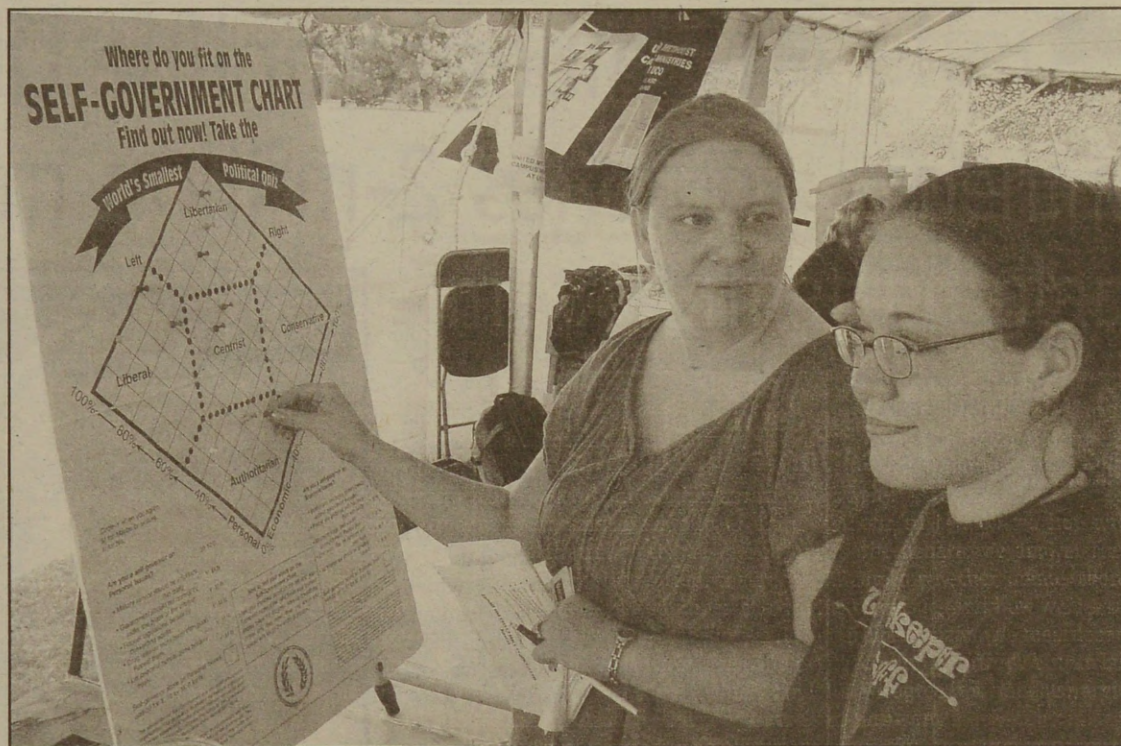
"It's far more accurate to say that utilities were re-regulated under the sham reforms of the last decade," he said — reforms that imposed no real reduction in government involvement.

"It's as if the politicians are suffering from a mental power failure, to match the electrical one New Yorkers experienced," he said.

The August 14-15 blackout left 50 million Americans without power for as long as 48 hours. As a result, some politicians have called for greater government control over the nation's power-transmission system.

But Buffalo Libertarian **James Ostrowski** said it is wrong to blame deregulation for the grid failure, since the transmission grid is one aspect of the power system still firmly under government control.

"State-imposed artificial price



Libertarians quiz students at Oklahoma University Stampede Week

Amy Powell, the founder of the College Libertarians at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) in Edmond, posts the score of a student who just took the World's Smallest Political Quiz.

The outreach event was held during UCO's Stampede Week, August 13-22, 2003, a week-long party, festival, and orientation for the incoming freshman class.

A similar booth hosted last year by the UCO College Libertarians discovered that 30% of UCO students fell into the libertarian quadrant, while 25% were authoritarian, 23% were liberal, 21% were centrist, and 1% were conservative.

caps on the industry have delayed upgrades to the overburdened network," he said.

"The *New York Times* backs up my analysis of the power problem. Its August 17 editorial revealed that the companies that transmit the power are regulated by the State Public Service Commission, and would invest in new transmission lines only if rate increases were approved, something the commission has been reluctant to do for political reasons."

■ OHIO

Hamilton Co. LP: Dump handout for Convergys

A mutli-million dollar handout to Convergys Corporation is not the solution to attracting more business to Cincinnati.

That's what Hamilton County LP Chair **Paul Green** told the Cincinnati city council on July 25.

"I am opposed to the Convergys deal because it is the wrong solution for the problem," he said. "Corporate welfare is not the way to keep businesses in Cincinnati."

In late June, the city council voted 8-1 to give \$52.2 million in grants and targeted tax breaks to Convergys Corp. to get it to stay in the city. It was the largest tax-subsidy package in Cincinnati history.

But instead of handing out tax dollars, politicians should concentrate on making Cincinnati more "business-friendly," said Green.

"If the city lowers taxes, builds and maintains a top-notch infrastructure, eliminates red tape, and lays out the red-carpet for business instead of putting up bureaucratic obstacles, then the city won't have to bribe companies to stay," he said. "Corporate welfare is not the solution."

■ TEXAS

Travis County LP says: Reject 19 amendments

The Travis County LP encouraged Texas voters to support three proposed amendments — but to vote against another 19 amendments to the state constitution.

"When in doubt, vote no," urged Travis County LP Chair **Pat Dixon**.

On September 13 (after *LP News* went to press), Texas residents voted on 22 proposed amendments. A simple majority was required to approve any amendment.

Of the 22 amendments, only three were worth supporting, said Dixon: ■ Proposition 2, which "provides owners of mineral interests more time to reclaim property which might have been seized for non-payment of taxes," he said.

■ Propositions 6 and 16, which "provide increased homeowner financing flexibility," said Dixon. "The primary arguments against these amendments are that homeowners may foolishly waste the equity in their homes. Though true, libertarians don't believe it is the government's role to prevent people from spending their money foolishly."

Many of the other 19 amendments give "increased taxing and spending authority" to politicians or "privileges to special interest groups" — "which libertarians oppose," said Dixon.

■ UTAH

Free State Project earns thumbs-up from Utah LP

The State Central Committee of the Utah LP has endorsed the Free State Project (FSP).

At its June meeting, the committee "wholeheartedly" endorsed the

project, said State Chair **Fran Tully**.

"The FSP is a very libertarian endeavor, and should encourage those seeking more individual liberty and personal responsibility through smaller government," he said.

The FSP seeks to recruit 20,000 libertarians to move to one small state (yet to be chosen), where freedom activists would create a critical mass that would work to move the state in a more libertarian direction.

In endorsing the FSP, Tully said Utah Libertarians rejected the notion that they were "giving up on freedom" in Utah.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," he said. "We will never give up on freedom in Utah. The success of the FSP can only benefit Utah. If the Free State Project demonstrates that by shrinking the role of the state it can improve the quality of life for Free State residents, then other states will emulate its policies."

■ UTAH

Libertarians participate in anti-Ashcroft protest

Libertarians turned out in force at a protest rally against U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft when he visited Salt Lake City to defend the USA/Patriot Act.

As many as 500 people demonstrated on August 25 outside the Little America Hotel where Ashcroft spoke to a hand-picked audience of state highway patrol troopers, police academy recruits, and U.S. Forest Service officers.

Taking part in the demonstration were Utah LP State Chair **Fran Tully**, potential 2004 LP candidate for governor **Richard Mack**, Utah LP Secretary **Aaron Turpen**, and others.

The protesters chanted "Hi-ho, hi-

ho, the Patriot Act must go!" and carried signs that said, "Trash Ashcroft, not the Constitution."

Also attending the rally were representatives of the Democratic Progressive Caucus, the ACLU, the South Valley Civil Liberties Action Group, and the Utah Republican Party.

"It was a great event," said Turpen. "People from all walks of life and all political spectrums were evident in the crowd. It was a great showing of solidarity from normally opposing groups. The voices of Utah were heard."

Ashcroft is making a month-long tour around the country to muster support for the USA/Patriot Act, an anti-terrorism bill that expanded the government's surveillance powers.

■ VIRGINIA

Anti-USA/Patriot Act proposal offered by LP

The Tidewater LP has crafted a "symbolic resolution" against the USA/Patriot Act that it has presented to 16 town and county governments.

The resolution charges that the law will "seriously impact [Americans' fundamental] freedoms and do little to increase public safety."

Tidewater LP Vice Chair **Brian Babb** told the *Virginian-Pilot* that Libertarians are promoting the resolution because the USA/Patriot Act gives the government vast new powers.

"It's scary," he said.

The resolution accuses the USA/Patriot Act of encouraging racial profiling by law enforcement, and said it "weakens, contradicts, and undermines basic constitutional freedoms."

While the resolution includes a "strong endorsement of all reasonable efforts to combat terrorism," it also "affirms that any efforts to end terrorism not be waged at the expense of the fundamental civil rights and liberties of the people of Virginia."

The resolution also directs city employees to decline to "officially assist or voluntarily cooperate with investigations, interrogations, or arrest procedures, public or clandestine, that are in violation of individuals' civil rights or civil liberties."

Online Resources for LP Members

■ Find contact info for your state Libertarian Party or your State Chair
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Click on: State Parties
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Click on: LNC Directory

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Visit: www.LP.org
See: Special Features (left side)
Click on: Renew

THE REVIEW

Curbing a rogue agency

■ *Out of Bounds, Out of Control: Regulatory Enforcement at the EPA*, by James V. DeLong. Published by the Cato Institute. 111 pages, paperback, \$8.95. Available at: www.Cato.org.

Reviewed by Bill Winter

LP NEWS EDITOR

For many Americans, laws are like magic. Politicians pass legislation and — *abracadabra!* — a problem disappears. James V. DeLong's *Out of Bounds, Out of Control* demonstrates otherwise. It shows that laws (especially laws that seek to solve complicated problems) calcify into government agencies, spawn overzealous bureaucrats, and beget mind-numbingly complex regulations.

Case in point: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The agency has 18,000 employees, a budget of \$8.1 billion, and jurisdiction over millions of businesses. The EPA also has such vast powers and a pugnacious mindset that it has created enormous difficulties for Americans who live under its authority.

The EPA enforces 40,000 pages of government regulations — a plethora of paperwork so prodigious that “few institutions can be assured they are in compliance.”

Even worse, EPA bureaucrats view “the private sector as a collection of profit maximizers who will seize any opportunity to break the rules,” according to DeLong.

As a result, the EPA is an “out of control” agency. It promiscuously seeks to expand its regulatory scope by deliberately misinterpreting laws, and then codifies those interpretations through enforcement. In doing so, argues DeLong, it runs roughshod over the rights of innocent people.

Although the book offers dozens of examples, one should prove his point: More than 100 years ago (in 1899), Congress passed the Refuse Act, which made it a crime to dump into navigable waters debris that could cause boats to be “impeded or obstructed.” Coupled with the Clean Water Act of 1972, the EPA used this law to claim authority over “wetlands,” and told builders they needed EPA permission before filling in any pond, stream, or swamp with dirt.

Builders, aghast at the EPA's attempt to seize control of private property, realized they could dig ditches to drain wetlands, thus avoiding any prohibition against “depositing” material. With the wetland drained, they were out from under the EPA's authority.

Not so fast, said the EPA. In a lunatic leap of legal logic, it started suing developers — arguing that if a speck of dirt from a shovel fell back into a wetland while digging a ditch, that was a violation of the Refuse Act's prohibition against depositing materials into “the waters of the United States.”

In 1998, a federal court rejected this argument, saying it seemed to be designed solely to expand the power of the EPA.

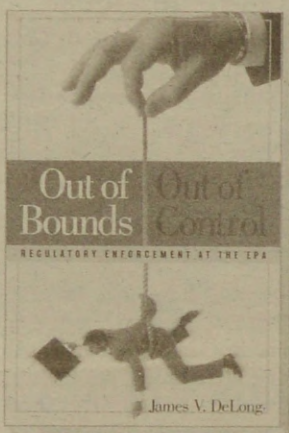
This didn't stop the EPA. In 1999, it fined a construction company \$90,000 for, yes, digging a ditch. The company had dug a ditch, put the dirt on the side, and then later replaced all of the dirt. The EPA reasoned that the federal court ruled that allowing some dirt to fall back into a ditch was not a violation of the Refuse Act — but did not specifically rule that putting *all* the dirt back was OK. Therefore, the EPA concluded, the company had committed the “crime” of putting dirt back into its original location.

By the time you finish *Out of Bounds, Out of Control*, you'll be hard pressed to disagree with DeLong's central premise: That the EPA is an agency rife with “insensitivity, zealotry, and abuse.”

In the final chapter, DeLong suggests some reforms for the EPA, such as legislation to require any substantial reinterpretation of a law to be approved by Congress. At the same time, he acknowledges that there is no “easy prescription” to curb the rogue agency.

The book isn't perfect. However, its main flaw is also its main virtue. At a trim 111 pages, it's a wham-bam introduction to a very complicated topic. For Americans interested in the real-world impact of environmental laws, it's a fast overview of an important issue.

In the end, *Out of Bounds, Out of Control* accomplishes its goal: It shows that laws are not magic. Instead, thanks to the heavy hand of government, they frequently create — *abracadabra!* — a new set of problems, a new bureaucracy, and a new set of victims.



Number of online Quiz takers reaches 2-million milestone

The World's Smallest Political Quiz reached a milestone in late August when the number of people who have taken the quiz online passed the 2-million mark.

“It was exciting because it's a big number,” said Sharon Harris, president of the Advocates for Self-Government. “When you reach a milestone like that, it makes you aware how many people are seeing it.”

The interactive Quiz — which measures a person's political leanings on a four-way quadrant that includes libertarian, liberal, conservative, and authoritarian — is posted at www.TheAdvocates.org.

Over 4,500 websites link to the Quiz, and more than 2,200 people take the online version of the Quiz every day, said Harris.

The number of online quiz-takers “officially” hit the 2-million mark on August 31, according to the Advocates' best guess, she said.

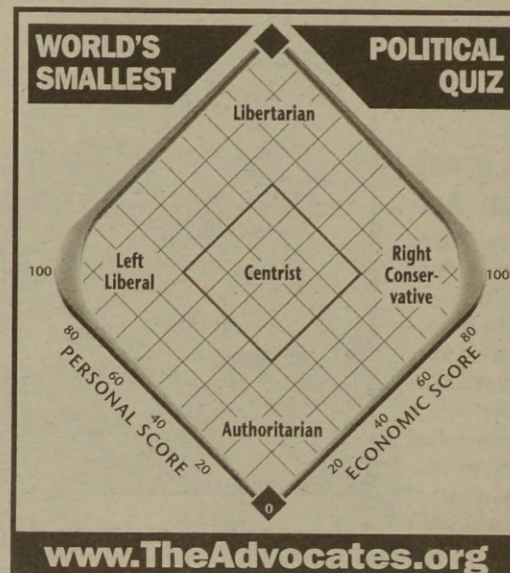
Mind-stretching

Harris said the Quiz is so popular because it's an “eye-opening, mind-stretching” experience.

“The Quiz is not just another political handout,” she said. “It quickly gives people a new way of seeing politics. And the ‘Aha!’ insight the Quiz gives sticks with users.”

People also like the fact that the Quiz is accurate, said Harris.

“From the beginning, our goal was



The original paper Quiz debuted in 1987, a combination of the four-way political “map” created by Libertarian Party founder David Nolan and a series of political questions written by Advocates founder Marshall Fritz.

6 million

The combination proved to be irresistible: Over 6 million copies of the card-stock version of the Quiz have been distributed by the Advocates.

to create a tool that would be not only fast and fun, but accurate and insightful for people regardless of their political persuasion,” she said.

“More than any other factor, I believe the Advocates' determination to create a Quiz that would be a useful, legitimate political tool explains the immense popularity of the Quiz [and] its wide usage.”

The Advocates first posted the Quiz to the Web in the summer of 1995, and started tracking the number of people who took it in May 1996, said Harris. By November 2000, the number of quiz-takers reached the 1-million mark.

In addition, the Quiz has been reprinted in newspapers, books, magazines, and campaign literature; has been given on radio by talk show hosts; has been used in college political-science classes; and has been featured on national TV.

Even though the online Quiz has reached 2 million people, Harris said the Advocates is not going to rest on its laurels.

“The next goal is 3 million,” she said.

The Advocates for Self-Government is a non-profit, non-partisan libertarian educational organization based in Cartersville, Georgia.

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Oregon LP joins tax-hike repeal effort

The Oregon Libertarian Party has joined a broad coalition that will work to qualify a referendum giving state taxpayers the opportunity to overturn an \$800 million tax increase.

On August 22, Oregon Libertarians said they would work with the state Republican Party, Citizens for a Sound Economy, the Constitution Party, the Taxpayers Association of Oregon, and others to qualify the initiative.

Supporters must collect 50,420 valid signatures from registered voters by November 26, 2003. If the petition drive is successful, the initiative would appear on the ballot in a special election on February 3, 2004.

Oregon LP Executive Director Ri-

chard Burke told the *Oregonian* newspaper he expects the petitioning process will go smoothly.

"Passions are so high right now that the energy put into collecting signatures is going to be uncommonly high," he said.

In mid-August, the Oregon House and Senate approved House Bill 2152, which will raise taxes by about \$800

million over three years. Governor Ted Kulongoski signed the bill on August 27.

The bill includes an income tax surcharge, a new tax on healthcare providers, a reduction in business tax credits, and an increase in corporate taxes. It also reduces the discount residents get for timely payment of property taxes.

Of the State House's 35 Republicans, 11 voted for the tax increase, and 5 of 15 Republicans in the State Senate supported it.

The legislature approved the massive tax increase just seven months after voters rejected — on a 55%-45% vote — Measure 28, which would have imposed a \$725 million tax hike.

Burke told Oregon Public Radio

that the legislature's willingness to raise taxes in the face of such opposition will send the message to taxpayers that "they ignored you on Ballot Measure 28; they don't care what you think."

That message of "legislative arrogance" will generate support for the tax-repeal referendum, he predicted.

A survey released August 28 showed that 55% of voters support overturning the tax increase, while 35% oppose it, according to the *Salem Statesman Journal*. Another 10% are undecided.

E-vote machine lawsuit will get oral arguments

Continued from Page 4

such machines create "unobservable, unverifiable, non-recountable, untestable, non-public voter tallies."

Weber lost the first round when Judge Stephen V. Wilson ruled against her in September 2002.

In the decision, the judge said "the state's interest in easy, attractive voting machines which might increase voter turnout outweighed the voters' interest in verifiable results," said Weber.

In response, Weber appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, charging that DRE voting systems violate "our nation's basic assumptions about human nature and the need for checks and balances to guard against the temptation and corrupting influence of power."

"We need the check of voter-verified ballots and the balance of an external audit of those ballots," she said.

A victory in the appeals court could halt the distribution of paperless electronic voting machines in California, said Weber, and create a legal precedent that could slow their acceptance around the USA.

In the 2002 election, 19.6% of American voters used electronic voting machines.

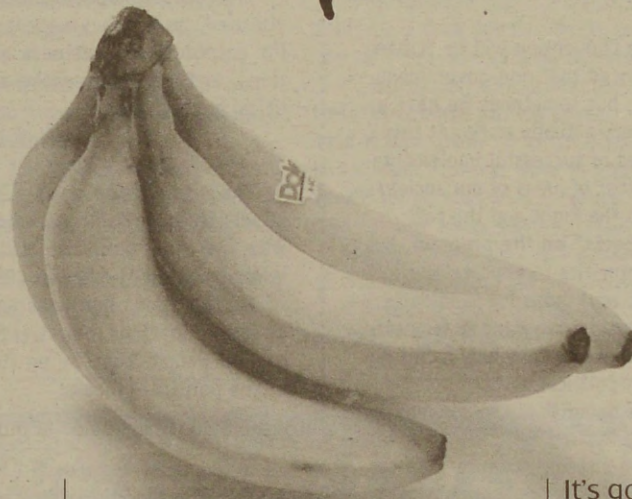
California LP

In February 2003, delegates at the California LP convention passed a resolution opposing "any computer, Internet, or direct-record electronic voting system that does not use a voter-verified paper ballot as the ballot of count, recount, audit, and record."

In July 2003, Georgia LP State Chair Dr. Helmut Forren demanded that the Georgia state government scrap paperless voting machines, which he called a "fraud-prone system" that is "completely insecure."

For information on Weber's suit, visit: www.electionguardians.org.

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— Dave Hoesly, Webster, NY
Computer engineer (retired)

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It's not just for delegates!

Hello, my fellow LP-ers! This is the second installment of what should be a regular column from me on the status of the 2004 LP National Convention. (Don't forget that it will be over Memorial Day weekend, May 27-31, 2004, in Atlanta.)

We are working on the speaker and entertainment line-ups, and I can't quite yet let any of the cats out of the bag, but look for announcements next month of some really great people who want to be a part of the 2004 Convention.

I will announce that the "theme" of the Convention will be "Liberty Works!" As Libertarians, we might be convinced that non-government programs are better than government ones, but sometimes we have a hard time conveying how a libertarian society actually works. At this convention, we plan to have many examples of successful implementation of non-government solutions in a number of areas of our society — covering issues held near-and-dear by both the Right and the Left.

There will be some of the "usual suspects" on the program, but we're working on a whole new bunch of luminaries to educate and entertain us. We also plan "nuts and bolts" workshops for candidates, managing successful campaigns, and fundraising. We want to facilitate student Libertarians to network. In fact, I'd like to somehow facilitate all sorts of networking — political and non-political.

I never underestimate the serendipitous benefits of the convention's social aspects, and it's always fun finding a kindred spirit — other than just being a fellow libertarian. Maybe you're a stamp collector or a car buff or a gourmet chef. I would love to help you network with others who share your profession or hobbies. Let me know what you think!

In the past, the bulk of attendees at national conventions have been there as delegates from their respective states. Of course, we want to have as many delegates there as possible to help make the important business decisions of the party. This includes national Platform and bylaws modifications, election of officers (chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer) and LNC reps (at-large and regional), and this time, the nominations for our 2004 presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

But don't let the word "Convention" fool you! You may have a misconception that to attend an LP national convention, you must be a delegate. *Au contraire!*

Depending on your perspective, these very important business aspects can be a tedious process, although many find them to be rewarding. But if the business responsibilities of being a delegate intimidates (or bores) you, don't shy away from the Convention! There's always plenty of non-business stuff on the program.

In other words, think of it not as just a convention but as a seminar or conference, with a full weekend of great speakers, entertainment, workshops, and fun. You don't even have to be a dues-paying member to attend as a non-delegate! I'm hoping to have some workshops geared toward first-timers and open them up to the general public.

I can't announce specific pricing yet, except I think I can safely say that prices should be slightly lower than for 2002. I can tell you that the room rate at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis is only \$99/night for single or double occupancy — \$10 less than last time. I also anticipate a lower fee for vendor space than 2002; let me know if you might be interested in being a vendor or exhibitor.

So there are lots of reasons why you should consider going to Atlanta next May, whether you're a delegate or not. And please keep your feedback coming. I want this to be a weekend for every Libertarian!

In Liberty,
Nancy Neale
convention@hq.LP.org



Alaska appeals court upholds limits to donations to parties

In a setback for an LP activist, an Alaska appeals court has upheld the constitutionality of a state law that puts a \$5,000 limit on contributions individuals can make to political parties.

On August 12, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Anchorage overturned a 2001 decision striking down the law — ruling that large "soft-money" contributions present the "danger of corruption and the appearance of corruption." The ruling applied to large donations made to political parties for general "party building" purposes.

The court also upheld another provision of the law that made it a crime for corporations, business associations, and unions to make any political contributions.

Dealt a blow

The 3-0 decision dealt a blow to LP activist Scott Kohlhaas, who, along with two other plaintiffs, had filed a lawsuit against the law in 1997.

At the time, Kohlhaas said the limit on donations to parties "handicapped people from being involved in the political process."

"The major parties know that campaign finance reform is just a euphemism for outlawing speech," he said.

Kohlhaas filed the lawsuit with co-plaintiffs Ken Jacobus, a Republican lawyer, and Wayne Ross, a former Republican gubernatorial candidate.

"NEVER BEFORE HAS any court upheld a law criminalizing the act of giving a large amount of money to a political party."

—Richard Winger

In 2001, a U.S. District judge ruled in the trio's favor, saying the law was unconstitutional.

However, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in August overturned that decision.

In a 52-page decision, the judges wrote, "Soft money presents a danger of corruption and the appearance of corruption because political parties trade influence and access to candidates for soft money dollars."

However, the judges did uphold a lower court ruling that said unlimited professional services and labor could be donated to political parties.

Richard Winger, publisher of *Ballot Access News*, said the appeals court ruling was a "massive defeat" for minor political parties.

"Never before had any U.S. court upheld a law criminalizing the act of

giving a large amount of money to a political party for a purpose other than supporting the campaign of a particular candidate," he said.

While the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals claimed that large donations can lead to corruption, its "decision does not refer to any evidence" proving that assertion, said Winger.

If the U.S. Supreme Court agrees with that argument when it rules on the constitutionality of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA), "it seems virtually impossible for any new political party to ever challenge the dominance of the two old major parties," said Winger.


That's because smaller parties — from the Progressive Party in 1912 to the Reform Party in 1995 — were funded by large donations from individuals or labor unions, he said.

Been necessary

"In the past, large contributions to new political parties have always been necessary, if those new parties were to compete on an equal basis with the older parties," said Winger.

The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling may be somewhat muted because in May 2001, the state legislature repealed the \$5,000 limit on donations to political parties, after the lower court ruling.

Kohlhaas was the membership chair of the Alaska LP from 1997 to 1999. He later moved to Illinois.




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Oklahoma LP issues 2003's Liberty Index

The Oklahoma LP has issued its second annual Liberty Index, which measures how often the state's lawmakers vote in a pro-liberty direction.

The index, released in late August, revealed that the average legislative score was up six points from last year, to 40%, said Oklahoma LP State Chair Christopher S. Powell.

"Naturally we'd like all of them to vote for liberty every time, but we realize we're dealing with Democrats and Republicans," he said. "A jump of six points is very encouraging."

According to the 2003 Liberty Index, Democrats in the State House earned an average score of 40%, while Republicans averaged 43%. In the State Senate, both Republicans and Democrats averaged 38%.

To assign the numeric score, Powell said he selected 10 bills from this year's legislative session that "were clearly either pro-liberty or anti-liberty." Lawmakers earned points the more often they voted in a pro-liberty direction.

When all the numbers were added up, the most pro-liberty politicians in the State House were Reps. M.C. Leist (D) and Mike O'Neal (R), each with a 70% score.

Coming out on top in the State Senate — with scores of 50% — were Republicans Jim Reynolds and Kathleen Wilcoxson, and Democrats Kenneth Corn and Cal Hobson.

May surprise some

"It may surprise some that we have an equal number of Democrats and Republicans as top scorers," said Powell. "But some Democrats are more libertarian than others, and some Republicans are more libertarian."

Powell said the Liberty Index accomplishes several useful functions for the Oklahoma LP.

"I am finding this to be a useful tool to let legislators and the public know where we stand, and let us get a better idea of who is more and who is less statist," he said.

The six highest-ranking lawmakers in the State House and Senate were each given a "Friend of Liberty" award at a September 10 dinner meeting of the Central Oklahoma LP.

Used to calculate the Liberty Index score were bills to restrict the ability of citizens to speak at public meetings; to make it illegal to buy mobile homes at auctions; to reduce penalties for possessing marijuana; and to require fingerprints to get a driver's license.

Beginner's Introduction

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— KEN SCHOOLAND

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Presidential hopeful Gary Nolan campaigns in Washington, Michigan

■ Left: Gary Nolan, a candidate for the Libertarian Party's 2004 presidential nomination, addresses the crowd at the Hempfest in Seattle, Washington on August 16.

The event, held on the Seattle waterfront, attracted about 200,000 people — making it a perfect opportunity for Libertarians to talk about the failed War on Drugs, said Nolan.

"Thousands of people from all walks of life got to hear my presentation," he said. "I can only hope they will remember next November which candidates are voting to put them and their loved ones in jail, and vote Libertarian!"

During the event, Nolan, who worked as a nationally syndicated radio talk show host before quitting to campaign full-time, was filmed for an upcoming political documentary.



Also speaking at the Seattle Hempfest was Michael Badnarik, a past candidate for the Texas legislature and current contender for the LP's presidential nomination.

"[Badnarik] demonstrated a willingness to learn about the Drug Reform culture and to spread the word of Libertarianism to them," said Washington state LP activist Duane Grindstaff, who attended the event. "He was able to present Libertarian viewpoints in such a way that he was well received, and he did very well when he had one-on-one talks with various people."

Right: Nolan (center) poses with activists from the Tri-Cities LP at the Michigan State LP picnic in Saginaw on July 20.

"This is a great group of Libertarians with a lot of potential for growth," said Nolan.



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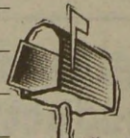
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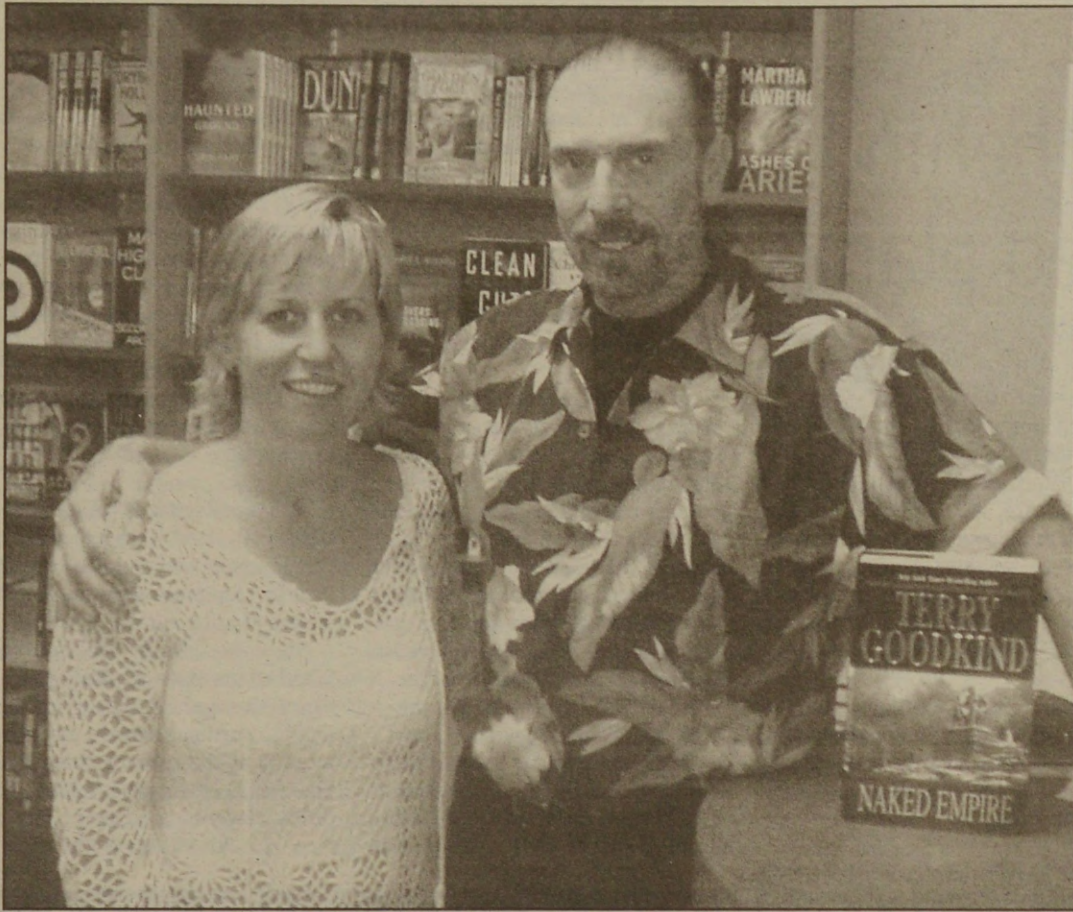


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LP member meets bestselling 'libertarian' author Terry Goodkind

■ California Libertarian activist Kristi Stone poses with best-selling fantasy author Terry Goodkind at the Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore in San Diego on July 22.

"Many of Terry's books are libertarian in theme," said Stone. "[He] seems to be very libertarian minded."

Goodkind was in San Diego to promote his new book, *Naked Empire*. It was the latest in his ongoing Sword of Truth series, which also includes *Wizard's First Rule*, *Stone of Tears*, *Blood of the Fold*, *Temple of the Winds*, *Soul of the Fire*, *Faith of the Fallen*, and *Pillars of Creation*.

"[They are] enjoyable libertarian-leaning adventures," said Stone, a former LP candidate for California state assembly. "Terry delights in telling stories. He also likes to make people think. It's a combination that has brought him resounding success."

The epic fantasy series recounts the adventures of woodsman Richard Cypher, who, with his band of friends and allies, works to thwart the evil plans of the sadistic Darken Rahl.

Goodkind told the *Las Vegas Journal Review* that his books reflect his opposition to the "concept of moral equivalence" — a "philosophy [that] has infected the world. When you have that concept, you're at war with reality."

Instead, his books celebrate "reason and logic and dealing with reality," he said. "I like to write books that inspire and uplift people."

POLITICS 2003

News from Russia, and LP wedding bells

■ In Connecticut, self-described "reluctant politician" **Dawn Lincoln** is petitioning to run for Newington town council. In North Carolina, **Victor Marks** is in a two-way race for a seat on the District 6 School Board (Craven County). In Massachusetts, **William Berry** is on the ballot for New Bedford City Councilor at Large. In Missouri, **Christopher Davis** has formed an exploratory committee for a possible campaign for secretary of state in 2004. In Pennsylvania, **Mark Shay** is running for Garnet Valley School Board. In Washington state, **Michael Nelson** will be a partisan Libertarian candidate for the Metropolitan King County Council (8th District).

■ **Media news:** Is there no action, no matter how un-Libertarian, that some critic can't tag with a "libertarian" label? The most recent example: In the *National Review Online* (August 28), **Lawrence F. Kaplan** criticized President Bush for his "decidedly libertarian approach to securing post-war Iraq." Apparently, the Libertarian component is Bush's "almost theological insistence on leaving Iraq to the Iraqis."

■ According to a list compiled by Wisconsin LP member **Aaron Biterman** in August, more than 40 Libertarians in 14 states have been elected or appointed to office so far in 2003. The state-by-state score: Wisconsin (11 new Libertarians in office), Illinois (6), Oregon (6), New Hampshire (4), Massachusetts (3), Georgia (2), California (1), Colorado (1), Indiana (1), Kansas (1), Missouri (1), Montana (1), North Carolina (1), and Texas (1).

■ In Virginia, **Steve Damerell** was elected State Chair at a special convention. In Michigan, **Larry Johnson** was elected Chair of the Washtenaw County LP. In New Mexico, **Susan Ruch** was appointed Chair of the Santa Fe County LP. In Virginia, **John Mullin** was elected Chair of the Henrico County LP. In Louisiana, **Vinson Mouser** has been elected State Chair.

■ **Miscellaneous:** In Michigan, marriage bells have been ringing: Berkley Councilman **Fred Collins** married campaign über-guru **Barbara Goushaw** (May 24), while Hazel Park Councilman **Andy LeCureaux** married **Suzie Jweda** (June 13). In Indiana, **Ken Bisson** has announced his Seventh Annual Libertarian Cruise. The 10-day Panama Canal Cruise will leave from Fort Lauderdale on February 22, 2004. For information, visit: www.freedomcruises.biz.



■ **Barb Goushaw:** Wedding bells.

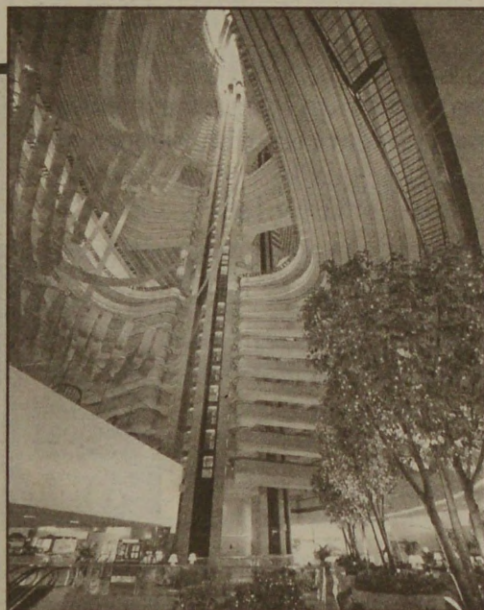
At the LP's national office in Washington, DC, Affiliate/Membership Services Representative **Dianne Pilcher** was back at work in early September after suffering a head injury from a bicycle fall. To everyone who sent cards after her accident, Pilcher offered "heartfelt thanks."

■ **International news:** In Russia, the Russian Libertarian Party — **Rossiyskoye Libertarianskoye Dvizhenie** (RLD) — was recognized as an "official" political party by that country's Department of Justice on August 25. In September, the RLD plans to nominate its first candidate to run for Gosudarstvennaya Duma (Russian House of Representatives). For information, visit: <http://libertarian.narod.ru>.

■ In Georgia, **William Gerard Costa** has filed to run for chairman of the Fulton County Commission. In Utah, anti-Brady Bill sheriff **Richard Mack** has set up a website for his potential run for governor: www.mackforgovernor.com. In Washington state, **Brad Henry** was appointed to the King County Citizens' Election Oversight Committee. In Louisiana, Libertarian **Eddie Mangin** is running for governor as an independent. In Florida, **Louis Cashmer** will run in a special election for the state House of Representatives (District 41). In Minnesota, **Colin Wilkinson** was appointed to the Minnesota Academic Standards Committee, and will serve on the subcommittee to create History, Civics, and Social Studies standards for grades 9-12. In Indiana, **Dean H. Barkley Jr.** has announced he will run for mayor of Indianapolis.

■ In Michigan, Libertarians are mourning the death of former State Chair **Joseph Overton**, who was killed on June 30 while flying his ultra-light aircraft. "Joe was an incredibly intelligent, enthusiastic, articulate, and professional advocate for liberty," said friend **Bill Hall**.

■ **Miscellaneous:** In New Hampshire, Republican Governor **Craig Benson** has praised the **Free State Project** (FSP). When asked what he thought about 20,000 libertarians possibly moving to the Live Free Or Die state, Benson responded, "Come on up. We'd love to have you." In Texas, **Mark Givens** has created a new "bold, exciting, and spectacular" website — www.rockthesystem.com — to promote Libertarian principles. Givens said his goal is to create the "largest and most comprehensive Libertarian website on the Internet."



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THE FORUM

Explaining the rationale behind the Platform's reformatted planks

■ **Editor's note:** In August, a website with "reformatted" versions of more than half of the LP's 61 Platform planks was unveiled. The site, the work of the LP Platform Special Committee, offers LP members a chance to comment on the work done so far on the Platform.

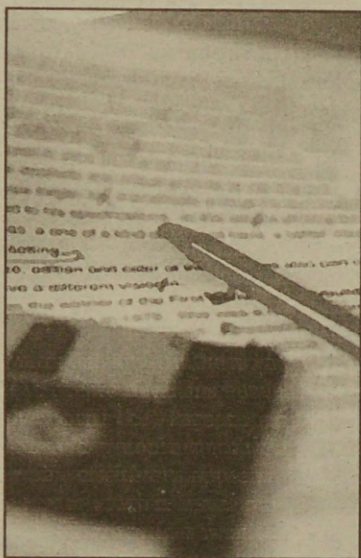
At the Committee's website — www.aznorthernalliance.org/LNCplatform — the language of each Platform plank has been reformatted into four categories: Issue, Principle, Solutions, and Transitions.

Here, committee member George Squyres explains the thought process behind the reformatting system.

Questions have emerged about the format's four categories and the function each serves, not only individually, but as a progression.

In response, each category addresses a number of problems that have plagued not only the Platform, but our candidates and us as a political party whose mission statement is to elect candidates. Each seeks to solve particular issues, as well as achieve an overall leap forward as a political document.

■ **The Issue:** We argue among ourselves over certain issues, demonstrating what a Republican friend said is the Achilles' heel of Libertarians: we don't know how to close ranks and present a unified front. Much internal debate comes from different un-



derstandings of an issue, and much of it goes away when we articulate our common ground.

Additionally, our candidates get hammered by a radical presentation of our position when a simpler version would have sufficed. Americans won't relate to the right to "self-medicate," but they understand it when we say, "Prohibition never stopped anyone from drinking alcohol, it only created Al Capone." Or, "Drug prohibition is causing more harm than the drugs themselves."

We come out, not as advocates of drug usage, but as the only ones recognizing the realistic limits of political action. We control the debate and give our candidates a position of

strength rather than vulnerability.

In framing the issue as our first task, we not only control the debate, we answer the question as to whether or not there really is an issue, and how we see an issue as Libertarians. We may debate pro and con on abortion, but as Libertarians we agree it is not the purview of government.

By starting with our common ground, we learn to stand together, rather than present the image of combatants too busy arguing to ever govern if given the chance.

■ **The Principle:** If we are truly the "party of principle," we must do more than grandly state, "Each person has the right to live entirely according to his own choices."

Instead, we must say clearly how that principle applies to a particular issue, in a way that speaks to the average voting American. They want to know how principle relates to an issue in their ordinary lives, rather than how we "radicals" embrace it.

When talking about families, for example, principle dictates that individuals control the governance of their family unit, parents determine the raising of their children and the values instilled in them. Government does not have the right to dictate what values our children learn, or how families are run.

By George Squyres

Many of our planks do not go the distance in stating how principle applies to a particular issue; many do not make a statement of principle at all. This is where we deliver the goods (or not), and show that principle directs us — rather than contributors' bribes.

This format point demands of us a clearer understanding of our principle in application, diminishing disagreement, and enabling our candidates to clearly state where they stand on an issue as a Libertarian.

■ **The Solution:** Socialists have made progress by consistently showing their vision of the world and demanding its realization.

Here is where we show people our vision of a Libertarian world, the destination that we seek, undiluted and uncompromised, with the ultimate solution to the issue we have presented. Many of our best activists know what that world looks like, it is what drives them; here is where they can share that picture.

Many Libertarians oppose "incrementalism" and demand the end state as the uncompromised goal; this is where they can hold that standard

high. They must be able to do so in a realistic manner that anyone in the country can relate to: it cannot be a pie-in-the-sky utopia. We know there are no utopias.

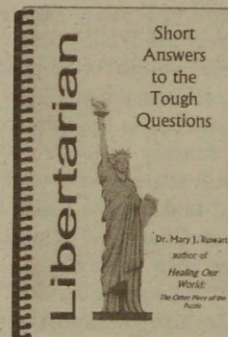
It must be a believable, everyday picture that people who vote can see themselves living in, a world they know, and not just a fantasy. For if we cannot show the realistic achievement of our vision, then no one is going to buy it. Too often our picture has not been something the voters will believe in. The discipline enforced by this format point is to deliver a Libertarian world that even our strongest opponents cannot say is unachievable.

■ **Transitions:** If we can see a Libertarian world, then we must show the direction we take: the concrete, step-by-step process that ultimately arrives at our solution.

Here we show the successes that Libertarians have created, the advances that we have already achieved, and the further steps we propose in arriving at the solution to an issue. These must tie together with the solution above as a coherent picture,

See **PLATFORM** Page 17

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Most politicians propose the same old worn-out ideas when suggesting ways to increase access to affordable daycare. Democrats and Republicans usually propose more government subsidies and tax credits for parents. But giving tax breaks and subsidies only to working parents with kids in daycare discriminates against stay-at-home mothers.

Cut taxes

Rather than subsidizing daycare, we should cut taxes dramatically to allow one parent to stay home.

Another worn-out proposal is stricter licensing requirements. But licensing is misguided — it only adds

to the cost of daycare. Potential new providers are barred from entering the daycare field because of the mass of regulations, start-up costs, paperwork, and permit applications that the licensing process entails.

And licensing only lulls parents into a false sense of security. Without licensing, daycare providers would be policed by accreditation groups, daycare referral services, and word-of-mouth. Don't buy into the myth that government licensing improves daycare. In reality, it only raises the price by restricting supply.

The license and land-use permit application process would scare most



By Jeff E. Jared

any grandma away from starting a daycare in her house. The paperwork is enormous, and detailed plans are mandatory. Privacy is also violated by these onerous requirements. There often is a public comment period before approval is granted, and if granted, government officials are often given the right to inspect home daycare sites. Such intrusions are uncalled for.

Zoning laws

Zoning laws also restrict where in-home daycare facilities can operate and how many kids they can have. These laws, most of which should be repealed, also add to the cost of daycare. Often zoning laws keep daycare centers out of commercial areas, preventing companies from providing on-site daycare for their employees. This is misguided.

Another failed idea that is constantly regurgitated by Democrats is requiring higher stan-

See **DAYCARE** Page 17

How small government would mean better, cheaper daycare

Continued from Page 16

dards in daycare facilities. Requiring formal health classes for staff, and treating daycare centers like restaurants only hurts poor parents — many of whom are single moms — by raising the cost of daycare. This prices them out of the market altogether. The result is latchkey kids.

Arbitrary standards, often under the guise of health and safety, lead to the same result. Regulations often require daycare staff to: 1) be high school graduates and 2) attend training classes.

Other regulations require owners to: 3) install new toilets, 4) replace furniture, 5) expand play areas inside and out, 6) raise ceilings, 7) provide parking for staff, 8) install new sinks, 9) create a separate kitchen, and 10) add extra fire extinguishers. This is too burdensome.

Onerous licensing and high start-up costs mean that many a grandma who takes care of the kids on her

street works underground and illegally. Believe it or not, unlicensed daycare providers can be fined and even jailed for violations. The way it is now, over two-thirds of daycare providers operate in the black or gray market; i.e., they are not up to code. This is a sorry state of affairs.

See a flowering

After deregulation, we'd see a flowering of daycare providers, whether they are companies like Kindercare or Auntie down the street. Kirkland Preschool in Washington state is a great example. It is privately funded, non-profit, and non-religious. It has 105 kids who are in six different classes a day. Parents donate their plumbing skills and money without any government handouts to keep the school running.

Parents, please don't think that more licensing of daycare facilities, more educational requirements for daycare staff, higher health and



safety standards, and more regulations will increase access to affordable daycare — because they won't.

The solution is simply lower taxes and fewer regulations. Daycare providers should spend more time with kids and less time with paperwork, remodeling and permit applications.

■ **About the author:** Jeff Jared lives in Kirkland, Washington. He is an attorney and philosophical economist.

Platform: Issue, Principle, Solutions, and Transitions

Continued from Page 16

and must show the alternatives to government programs and demonstrate their superiority to government as the solution.

Those who recognize the inevitability of incremental steps in politics can show those steps — while not allowing them to lose the perspective of their ultimate goal, without compromising our values, and do so in a way that the average American voter will believe in.

Murray Rothbard opposed advocating a tax break because it means you approve of taxes; yet he recognized the wisdom of accepting one, if only as a step along the way. The task demanded of us here is to provide the real steps towards what we see, steps that those who are not yet Libertarians will see as outstripping the competition.

Summary: When put together in a sequence, the format's progression in each Platform plank is not only

logical, it makes common sense.

Our Platform must serve our mission statement, which is to elect our candidates to office.

We must recognize an issue for the voting public and show how our principles guide us in solving it; then show the world as we see it with the problem solved (and the road that gets us there).

Our Platform must perform this complex job for each issue, giving us a tool that will show the voting public our vision of the world and make them want to support our candidates in achieving it.

The format we are imposing on the Libertarian Party's Platform helps it achieve those functions in a better way than ever before.

■ **About the author:** Arizona Libertarian George Squyres is a member of the LP Platform Special Committee, and the Region 2 Representative on the Libertarian National Committee.

What They're Saying About The Free State Project:

"I think FSP is a TERRIFIC idea. I know a lot of people have botched 'new country' and 'let's take over a county' ideas, but FSP is different. Not only do they have the best plan I've seen for actually making it happen, it's one that doesn't ask people to front a bunch of cash or risk making any moves, until a critical mass has been reached. Even if it's a long shot, the chance of having an example of freedom at work — that 'shining city on the hill' — is too good to pass up."

Louis James, free-market.net

"Who has not dreamt of a place in which common sense and mutual respect replace most of the laws on the books and people don't need the threat of government in order just to behave themselves? But how many have ever done anything about it?"

Keith Olbermann, MSNBC

"What can be done now? Are there any signs that those Americans who want to unconstitutionally control the lives of others are going to let up soon? I say no, but there's a peaceful resolution proposed by Free State Project, whose motto is, 'Liberty in our lifetime.' "

Walter Williams, economist and author

"A free state might show the rest of the world what can be done ... Let's think seriously about this."

Claire Wolfe, libertarian author



www.freestateproject.org

THE VOLUNTEER

How Libertarians can start to gain a toehold in government

I am often asked by someone, "What can I do to help?" in the context of helping the party, or advancing their concept of liberty.

I usually say, "Get elected." It's really very difficult to effect a change in government if you're not in government.

Typically, you don't need to look very far for an opportunity to get involved in government; no farther than your local school board, water district, assessment district, grand jury, or citizens' advisory committee for any number of local agencies. Some are elected, some appointed. You have to run as a candidate for the former but you can volunteer for the latter.

In fact, volunteering is a good way to get started in either case. If you start by showing up at public meetings, making constructive suggestions, and volunteering assistance, you will be noticed. Of course, you can also get noticed if you complain and lecture, but it will take much longer to make progress.

And by building a presence over

time as a "concerned citizen," you increase your chances of being elected or appointed to the job.

The downside is that once you're on the board or committee, you will actually have to do some work. These agencies each exist with a charter to fulfill, to govern some public function or program, and typically require some real effort on the part of their members.

Accept responsibility

A member must be willing to learn how the agency operates and understand its limitations, as well as to do the pick-and-shovel work of attending meetings, listening, taking part in discussions, and accepting the responsibility that goes with the job.

Some Libertarians seem to assume that once one is in a public position, one can simply make pronouncements and cause some more libertarian condition to occur. In non-partisan offices, that is seldom the case. It usually takes months of slow progress to demonstrate your ability and earn the trust of others before you gain the acceptance of a proposal or idea that you offer, hopefully a libertarian one.

But the top line requirement is to first "get in the game." Once you do, chances are that someone will ask why you voted the way you did on

By Al Swain

some issue, or how you determine the way to approach a problem. That is what you must be ready for. That is when you get the chance to explain a principle or a motive founded in libertarianism to a receptive ear. And as you accomplish your job over time, more than a few will ask.

For the longer term, we also have to "stay in the game." One tactic we use here in Shasta County, California is to consider each office held as a toehold in government. So once we gain a toehold, our job is to train someone else to take that position when we can no longer serve. We have elected three Libertarians to office in Shasta County thus far, with two serving currently. Those may not sound like significant numbers, but for a county of only 180,000 residents, that equates to having 355 elected Libertarians in all of California.

Meanwhile, we are gaining experience. The experience gained in public service is not obtainable in books, or school, or online, and I believe that no Libertarian will get elected to partisan office without it.

It will take some time, but eventually we will achieve our strategic goal of becoming the second largest party in our county, one toe at a time.

■ **About the author:** Al Swain is a member of the Whitmore Unified School District Governing Board in California. This essay reprinted from the LPC Monthly, June 2002.

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THE EDITOR

Does macho-flash language really work? (Take the test)

Are Republicans and Democrats evil and stupid? Or are they well-meaning people who simply espouse solutions that are, well, *wrong*?

Those questions were at the root of a discussion on the Colorado Freedom Report (www.co-freedom.com), where Ari Armstrong and El Paso County LP Media Director Mike Seebeck debated the kind of rhetoric Libertarians should use to describe our political opponents.

In the exchange, Seebeck suggested that one Colorado politician is "an arrogant, illiterate idiot." And most Americans, he wrote, engage in "zombie-voting" because they are "fat, dumb, and happy."

Such barbed language is necessary for Libertarians, Seebeck argued, because "gentle persuasion just doesn't work. The only place left to turn is emotion, and the strongest emotion to tap into is anger."

Armstrong disagreed. Libertarians "should state their reasoned positions with vigor and rhetorical clarity," he wrote, but avoid "mindless name-calling. There is a vast difference between thoughtful critique and angry attacks."

Libertarians are not alone in the use of political bombast, and there are times when it might be appropriate. For example, high-octane rhetoric can energize the faithful at a convention. And Ann Coulter is proof that vicious insults are effective selling lots of books.

But the real question is: Does it work?

Can Libertarians convince Americans to vote for our candidates or to join the party by behaving like (pick your generational metaphor) Don Rickles or Triumph the Insult Comic Dog?

Along the same lines, are radical proposals phrased in the most radical way possible — what Michael Cloud called the "Libertarian Macho Flash" — effective at persuading Americans about the merit of our positions?

The problem that Libertarians have in answering that question is that we've become immune to our own in-your-face rhetoric. We hardly blink when we hear a Libertarian blithely proclaim, "Taxation is theft!"

But do such phrases really work? Does the average American hear it, smack his forehead, and shout, "Son of a gun — you're right! Taxation is theft! It's obvious! Why didn't I see that before?"

Here's a simple test. I'll give you some examples of other organization's macho flashes, and you tell me if you are persuaded.

■ PETA co-founder Ingrid Newkirk wants to convince us that animals deserve the same rights as humans. So she asserted, "A rat is a pig is a boy is a dog."

■ Radical feminist Andrea Dworkin is certain that heterosexuality is bad. So she proclaimed that all sexual intercourse is the "colonization of women's bodies" by men.

■ Rabid environmentalist David Graber believes that humans have ruined the planet. So he declared, "We have become a plague upon ourselves and upon the Earth."

Now score yourself: Did you vow to stop eating steaks because it's just like eating a human boy? Have you sworn off sex? And did you promise to kill yourself to save the earth from the human "plague"?

Some Libertarians will argue that this test isn't fair — because we're right and these folks are wrong. Perhaps. But for an average American not yet persuaded of the truth of Libertarian views, "Taxation is theft" is no more persuasive than "A rat is a pig is a boy is a dog."

Eric Hoffer, in his classic *The True Believer*, wrote that people who join new political or social movements frequently claim that the "absolute truth is ... embodied in their doctrine."

Libertarians who engage in name-calling or macho-flashing prove Hoffer's premise. To them, our "absolute truth" is so clear that people should embrace it after hearing our slogans, and so virtuous that anyone who opposes it must be evil or stupid.

The problem with such absolutism is that it may confirm (to us) our own superiority, but do little to persuade others that we are good, levelheaded folks who can be trusted with the reins of power.

Libertarianism has always been made up of two intertwined strands: One angrily bemoans how bad things are, and points fingers of blame at those responsible. The other joyfully proclaims the blessings of liberty, and points toward a better future.

So, the next time you are tempted to insult a political opponent, ask yourself: Do you want to be part of a movement based on anger — or based on joy? The choice is ours, every time we open our mouths.



By Bill Winter

LP NEWS EDITOR

Why it's time to get Uncle Sam out of the art-subsidy business

EDITOR'S NOTE: How can Libertarianism solve America's problems? Each issue, *LP News* will showcase how "Libertarian Solutions" — or interim steps in a more libertarian direction — can help improve our nation.

By Bill Winter

LP NEWS EDITOR

Let's start with a pop culture quiz. Which of the following examples of art did you, personally, help pay for?

1) A "performance art" piece where a man wearing only underwear chained himself to an ATM machine in New York City.

2) A photograph of a crucifix immersed in urine, entitled "Piss Christ"?

3) A one-word poem: "light."?

4) Porn star Annie Sprinkle, ahem, pleasuring herself on stage.

5) A dead man's severed head being used as a flowerpot.

Answer: All of them.

Thanks to generous checks handed out by the art-subsidizing agencies of the federal government, you, the taxpayer, helped finance every one of those examples of modern art.

Surprised? You shouldn't be. Art is big business for Uncle Sam.

During 2003, for example, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will spend \$115.7 million of your money.

Add in the \$124.5 million budget for the National Endowment for the Humanities, subsidies for the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Department of Education's arts programs, and other direct appropriations, and total annual federal support for the arts amounts to \$2 billion, according to the 2003 *Cato Handbook for Congress*.

Of course, if you read the Constitution, you'll not find any mention of government-funded arts. As Bill Kauffman noted in his 1990 *Cato Policy Analysis*, *Subsidies to the Arts: Cultivating Mediocrity*: "The Founding Fathers never envisioned federal sponsorship of the arts."

It started with FDR

So how did we get to the point where Uncle Sam is spending \$2 billion of your dollars annually on welfare for artists? Like many aspects of today's big government, it started with President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1935, FDR's Works Progress Administration (WPA) launched the Federal Art, Music, Theater, and Writers Project, which paid direct subsidies to 45,000 writers, actors, musicians, and painters.

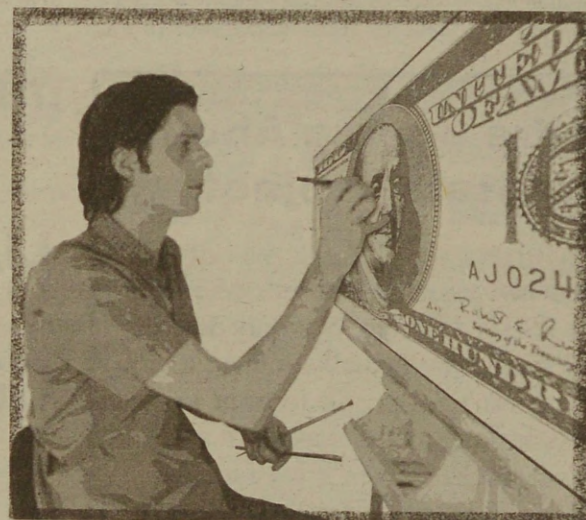
After Congress shut down the program in 1939, Uncle Sam got out of

Libertarian SOLUTIONS

the arts business until the Cold War heated up. In the 1950s, U.S. politicians began to fear that the country was falling behind the Soviet Union in an "Arts Race."

With the Communists boasting about their massive government-financed arts programs, U.S. Rep. Frank Thompson (R-NJ) fretted in 1956, "We can't afford to do less than the Russians in this field. We'll lose our shirts if we do." (How grim Soviet Realism-style, proletariat-on-a-tractor artwork posed a threat to the U.S. was never explained.)

By 1960, the Democratic Party's



Platform supported a federal advisory agency to promote the development of "cultural resources." In 1961, President John Kennedy picked up the artistic torch, and argued for federal subsidies for the New York City Metropolitan Opera.

Following Kennedy's assassination, President Lyndon Johnson prodded Congress to create the National Council on the Arts (1964) and the National Endowment for the Arts (1965).

The NEA started off modestly, with a budget of \$2.9 million. However, like all government programs, it grew relentlessly, and by 1992 (its high-

dollar mark), was spending over \$175 million on government-approved music, dance, plays, folk art, writing, sculpture, painting, and photography.

However, as its budget grew, the NEA started attracting attention from Republicans. Were right-wing warriors offended that the NEA was not authorized by the Constitution? No, they were outraged that the NEA was subsidizing the *wrong* kind of art.

Led by U.S. Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) and soon-to-be House Speaker New Gingrich, the GOP railed against tax-funded obscene, homoerotic, and sacrilegious artwork. They were particularly incensed by Andres Serrano (creator of the infamous "Piss Christ" photo), Robert Mapplethorpe (who pioneered new uses for bullwhips), and Karen Finely (who covered her naked body in chocolate syrup).

As Gingrich explained, "Taxpayers [should not have to] subsidize the weirdest thing you can imagine."

"Decency"

To put a halt to such "weird" art, Helms introduced a bill that required the NEA to consider "general standards of decency" when doling out money. Congress passed the law in 1990. In 1998, in an 8-1 decision, the Supreme Court upheld the law as constitutional.

(In response, Holly Hughes — an artist

whose funding had been cut by the NEA — articulated her principled argument against Helms' legislation. In a 2000 performance piece, *Preaching to the Perverted*, she kicked a cardboard box labeled "Jesse Helms" and shouted, "F**kin' a**hole!")

Wait a second: Wasn't the GOP going to get the government completely out of the art business, as part of their post-1994 Republican Revolution? Didn't they promise to abolish the NEA?

Well, yes. And in 1996, they worked up the gumption to cut the NEA's funding by 40% — to about \$99 million. It stayed at that level for five years, before creeping upward again.

By 2001, Republicans had apparently given up the battle. With the NEA "reformed" — handing out money for folk arts, youth-art programs, and "community arts partnerships" in rural areas — the GOP had made their peace with welfare for artists.

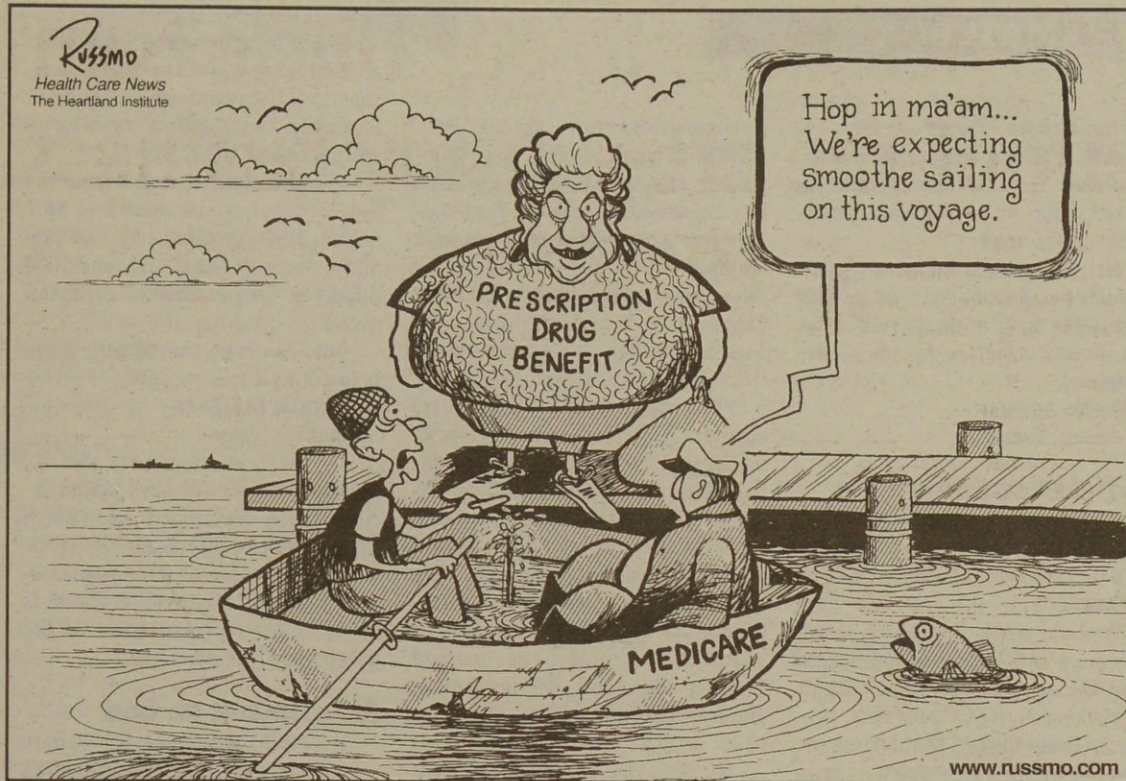
The NEA's new pork-barrel programs apparently helped, too.

As CNN wryly noted in 2002 when House Republicans voted to increase NEA funding by another \$10 million: "All politics is local."

Among the Republicans who voted for the funding boost were Rep. Michael Rogers (R-MI), whose district

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THE MAILBOX

■ The grocery tax

It was strange to read about self-proclaimed Libertarians in Montrose and Littleton, Colorado, fighting against their local grocery taxes [LP News, September 2003]. Are we sure they are real Libertarians?

LP News quoted one Littleton activist, "The tax is unfair; it disproportionately taxes the poor. It is a regressive tax."

The most fervent bleeding-heart liberal could not have taken a more socialistic stand. Better the towns should adopt a progressive income tax, I suppose.

Libertarians would be wise to quietly support the increased use of sales taxes to support government, while loudly criticizing many other types of tax.

Why? For one thing, sales taxes are truly equal. Rich and poor pay alike. What Libertarian can argue with equality?

Furthermore, sales taxes are out in the sunlight where every citizen can plainly see them. They are not hidden, out of sight and out of mind, like business taxes, for example. All taxes fall disproportionately on the poor, but at least the poor can see this one coming.

What Libertarian can argue with open and honest taxation?

If the Colorado activists succeed in repealing the sales tax on groceries, the towns will simply tax the citizens in a less visible way.

For instance, they could tax the grocery stores' wholesale purchases. Of course, the grocery stores will have to raise their prices to pay the tax, but that will be invisible to the less politically engaged members of the

public, which is most of them.

Sadly, statism will have spread a bit further.

— **HANK MOODY**
Port Republic, Virginia

**LIBERTARIANS WOULD
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■ Not consistent

I read the letter from Allan Presser entitled "Seatbelt Laws" in the Mail-Box section of the September issue of LP News, and I can't believe that he considers himself to be a Libertarian. In no way is strict enforcement of seatbelt laws consistent with Libertarian Party principles.

Seatbelt laws violate free will at its core. The right to self-determination is a God given, self-evident, unalienable right, as are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Any law that forces individuals to use a device that restricts their freedom when others are not being put at risk is wrong.

The argument that everyone must be belted in because those at fault in an accident may inflict more injury to someone unbelted is absurd.

That's like saying, we must all wear bullet proof vests so that when someone shoots us they will not kill us and go to jail for murder.

The argument against temperance laws by Horatio Seymour [The Forum, September 2003] can be applied to seatbelt laws, as well as it can to drug laws and Prohibition. All of these laws attempt to protect the individual from themselves by punishing them for things that do not directly affect others.

What could be more Libertarian than to oppose seatbelt laws?

— **DAN GOEBEL**
Poulsbo, Washington

■ Seatbelt error

Mr. Presser's observation about seat belts is accurate considering the limited analysis done.

He should understand that if states allowed people to buy personal insurance for the driver instead of the vehicle, then individuals would be responsible for their own injuries. This would save money since insurance would not be necessary for registering and inspections of vehicles, drivers could drive whatever they wished without worrying about the specific vehicle being insured and the rates and terms would be based on individual driver history instead of area and type of vehicle.

Of course, criminal and negligent acts would still be punishable by criminal and civil penalties.

Instead, states require the vehicle to be insured no matter what driver is behind the wheel, and sets up an adversarial system that makes all drivers responsible to and subject to

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THE PULSE

It's not fair enough

It's not fair, and we don't like taxes.

In a nutshell, that was the reaction of a majority of LP News readers to the so-called FairTax.

If implemented, the FairTax would repeal the income tax and replace it with a 23% national sales tax on goods and services. But even the thought of getting rid of the hated IRS (a side-benefit of the FairTax) didn't sway most Libertarians.

In response to this month's unscientific Pulse question — "Should the Libertarian Party support the FairTax as a way to eliminate the IRS and income tax, and to make taxes simpler and more fair?" — 55.6% of respondents said "no."

Why? Different readers had different reasons: Because the FairTax would not reduce total tax revenue. Because it is still a tax, and inherently objectionable. Because it distracts the LP from its real goal of shrinking the size of government.

On the other hand, 30.6% said the LP should support the FairTax, arguing that it is a way to eliminate the income tax — and the complexity, intrusiveness, and cost that go with it. As such, they said, it is a step in a libertarian direction.

Another 8.3% said they support the concept of the FairTax, but said the proposed 23% rate is too high. (Which means that 39.1% of LP News readers voiced support for some kind of national sales tax.)

Finally, 5.5% gave answers that were ambiguous or confusing.

Here is a representative sample of viewpoints:

■ We should not support the FairTax. If it is enacted, within five years it will be barnacled with as many special preferences and exceptions as today's income tax.

— **JIM KLANN**, Glendale Heights, Illinois

■ Yes. The IRS and the income tax would be abolished. You'd be able to keep every penny from your paycheck.

— **JEREMY MAIKRANZ**, Franciscio, Indiana

■ The FairTax would move attention away from the real problem in government: Too much spending. All LP efforts should be aimed at reducing the role of government.

— **JON D. JACOBS**, North Aurora, Illinois

■ I would favor a federal sales tax, but not at 23%! Five percent would be OK. People who spend less would pay less tax. People who spend more would pay more tax.

— **DAN ALTHOFF**, Jacksonville Beach, Florida

■ Why is this even a question? The LP platform prohibits the LP from supporting any new tax. And even the term "FairTax" is laughable.

— **BRAD STEPHENSON**, Denver, Indiana

■ Yes! While not completely Libertarian, it is a good start, by getting rid of the IRS. With the large tax payments out in the open each time we buy something, there would be more demand to reduce government, and reduce the 23% tax gradually, as government shrank.

— **COLIN F. SEWARDS**, Mansfield, Texas

■ No! The political efforts in support of the FairTax are a diversion from our real goal: Reduced government. Of all people, Libertarians should know better than to trust politicians — we're more likely to end up with both an income tax and a sales tax.

— **JIM COX**, Lawrenceville, Georgia

■ The only fair tax is zero tax. Libertarians should work to reduce government, not merely rearrange the tax burden.

— **CARL VASSAR**, Trumbull, Connecticut

■ The LP should support the FairTax with vigor because of its obvious simplicity and fairness. Everything the FairTax stands for aligns itself with the principles of the LP. There would never be another tax form to fill out, the IRS would be abolished, there would be no audits, tax loopholes would cease to exist, the poor would not be taxed, and criminals would have to pay their fair share.

— **DEAN RUTHERFORD**, Hailey, Idaho

■ No, the Libertarian Party should not support this so-called FairTax. It places the large and unjustified burden of collecting, protecting, and remitting large sums of money on millions of retailers.

— **FITZHUGH T. HAVENS**, Chromo, Colorado

■ No! Most of my savings for retirement have already been fully taxed. Now you want the government to get *another* 23% of what's left?

— **PAUL KUHN**, Bradford, Pennsylvania

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THE PULSE

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■ The FairTax is the only viable option to the massive volumes of tax code and the ever-intrusive IRS. The FairTax would be a step in the Libertarian direction of zero taxes. Therefore, it is something that we should support.

— **BILL THOMASON**, Truckee, California

■ The FairTax is fundamentally flawed. The big problem is that under the FairTax every family will receive a monthly federal tax rebate up to the poverty level. Soon we'll all be waiting for those checks. How long before that amount starts to increase, as the politicians buy more votes, and the tax begins to creep up?

— **LAIRD MINOR**, Simpsonville, South Carolina

■ While I believe the FairTax is a step in the right direction, I have some concerns. A sales tax is a hidden tax, in the sense that people wouldn't see how much they are paying. People could end up paying more taxes than they do under the current system without realizing it.

— **HENRY I. WIDMAN**, Dayton, Ohio

■ The federal government is too large. Exchanging one form of high taxation for another is not the solution. Returning to small government is the solution.

— **JOHN AXTELL**, Wichita, Kansas

■ The LP should not advocate the Fair Tax for numerous reasons, but the key one is this: Barring a Constitutional repeal of the 16th Amendment — which the FairTax proposal itself cannot accomplish — the Fair Tax is likely to be an additional tax, not an alternative one.

— **PHILIP BLUMEL**, Lake Worth, Florida

Dec. Question: Internal Education?

For detractors, it sounds suspiciously like Communist-era "Re-education Camps." For supporters, it's needed to keep the party from veering from the one true Libertarian path and turning into a watered-down "Liberty-Lite" party. It's internal education — an organized system of educating members about the LP's philosophy and positions. At its March 22-23 meeting, the Libertarian National Committee deleted the LP's Strategic Plan's Strategy 14, which called for the party to "develop and implement a program of ideological internal education." (In its place, the LNC voted to endorse developing a program "for educating and informing" LP candidates and providing them with "resources about the ideological foundations of liberty.") But do party members need ideological internal education? A look at the MailBox section of any *LP News* suggests it does — since eager LP members are always pointing out the philosophical flaws of other members! However, other Libertarians suggest that internal education is patronizing, wasteful, and a sign of a party that is more interested in ideological purity than real-world success. Who's right?

■ **QUESTION: Does the Libertarian Party need an organized system of "internal education" to keep party members properly principled? (Please keep answers to 100 words or less.)**

■ **DEADLINE:** November 8, 2003

Nov. Question: Infiltrate Rs & Ds?

Is it time for the Libertarian Party to heed the advice, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em?" After 30+ years of political activity, the Libertarian Party has yet to elect the mayor of a major city, a governor, a U.S. Representative, or a president. Is it time to try something radically different? The strategy (suggested by Jeff Fisher of Vancouver, Washington) is this: Libertarians should stop running for office as partisan Libertarians, and, instead, seek the nominations of the Democratic or Republican parties. If the strategy worked — and if these covert Libertarians got through the primaries and were elected to office in sufficient numbers — Libertarians would begin to have a real pro-liberty impact on the political process (or so the argument goes). More importantly, the theory goes, it would allow Libertarians to infiltrate and redefine the two older parties, and transform them into parties that advocated genuine liberty. But would it work?

■ **QUESTION: Would Libertarians be more successful if we infiltrated the Republican and Democratic parties — and ran for office as Rs and Ds? (Keep answers to 100 words or less.)**

■ **DEADLINE:** October 8, 2003

ENTRY GUIDELINES: Include your name and your city/state; anonymous answers won't be tallied! Enter just once per month.

■ **E-mail:** Editor@hq.LP.org. (Put "Pulse" in subject line.)

■ **Fax:** (202) 333-0072 (Attn: The Pulse).

■ **Mail:** Bill Winter, Attn: LP News/The Pulse, 1640 Worcester Road, #330-D, Framingham, MA 01702

THE MAILBOX

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all other persons, the perfect socialist dream. This is done to insure the participation of lawyers in all incidents on the road.

Mr. Presser's analysis is pure Demublican/Republicrat, and he falls into the error of analyzing based on the limited structure set up by the socialists.

— **JAMES ABSHIER**
Austin, Texas

■ Ticket scalping

I don't understand why Bill Shaw thinks that he has been "victimized" by ticket scalpers [The Mailbox, September 2003].

Does he think that he is somehow more entitled to buying tickets than the scalpers are, even though they managed to buy them first, perhaps because the fact that he is planning to attend the concert himself makes him somehow nobler than someone who plans to pass the tickets on to someone else?

It seems to me that if he did get the tickets first, the scalpers would have an equally valid claim that he was the one to victimize them, taking away their livelihood just so that he can attend the concert at a cost which is well below its market value.

Now, I don't know why the theaterers are so incredibly foolish as to throw away money by selling tickets at well below their market value; but obviously this is what they are doing, since the tickets do sell out at much higher prices.

The problem is this: the whiners who feel victimized when they don't get whatever they want for whatever price they want far outnumber the people who are willing to pay full market value to get it. This means that politicians can buy more votes by passing laws that cater to the whiners.

— **BRADLEY BOBBS**
Calabasas, California

■ Local vs. national?

In post-September 11 America, it's time for the Libertarian Party to give some hard thoughts beyond the local vs. national politics debate ["Why a strong Presidential campaign is the LP's best strategy in 2004." The Forum, September 2003].

Sustainable development should be our focus. And we need to start working on it now. In the long term, it's a matter of survival.

What if vigorous presidential and local campaigns are both a prerequisite for the long-term growth and success of the LP? By ignoring the synergy between national politics and grassroots development, Libertarians look as foolish as dogs trying to catch their tail.

Should there be a need for one argument in favor of running vigorous presidential campaigns, I would simply point to George W. Bush's political adviser Karl Rove's principle: A presidential campaign is made of 51 local races.

Furthermore, only by running a strong presidential campaign today

will we be able to run a stronger presidential campaign tomorrow. Campaigning requires little theory and a lot of hands-on experience. The learning curve is pretty stiff and team work requires lots of drill — therefore, the more experienced libertarian campaign managers and activists are the better. And there is no better school than a presidential campaign.

Running a strong presidential election also plays a major role in motivating our troops for local campaigning. Presidential elections excite us. We love the "esprit de corps," sense of purpose, and adrenaline a presidential campaign generates. It's bigger than life. We need it to recharge our battery for another four years of gruesome hand-to-hand fighting with local election boards and frustrating signatures drives for ballot access.

So, let's run the most vigorous presidential campaign ever!

— **CHARLES FOURNIER**
Ambler, Pennsylvania

PRESIDENTIAL
elections excite us.
We love the 'esprit
de corps,' purpose,
and adrenaline
that a presidential
campaign generates.

■ The federal debt

In *Libertarian Solutions* [September 2003], I'm afraid Bill Winter adds to the confusion surrounding the real amount of the U.S. government's debt. Let me try to clarify things.

The U.S. Treasury has a debt of about \$6.7 trillion. But the U.S. Treasury is only one part of the U.S. government. More than half its debt is owed to other entities within the government (namely the Social Security Administration and the

Federal Reserve).

The U.S. government's real overall debt, that it owes to entities outside itself, is only about \$3.3 trillion. Strangely, that's a figure you never see published anywhere.

To put it another way: Within the federal government, there is a \$6.7 trillion Treasury debt, a \$2.7 trillion Social Security trust fund, and \$670 billion in Federal Reserve collateral assets.

But seen from the outside, there is just a \$3.3 trillion debt.

— **ARTHUR DIBIANCA**
Austin, Texas

■ **Editor's note:** The \$2.7 trillion Social Security Trust Fund debt (which the government technically "owes" itself), is an on-the-books unfunded liability. So the \$6.7 trillion figure is an accurate representation of the government's genuine debt.

■ Jefferson on God

I simply could not let Robert Biggadike's assertion in the MailBox [September 2003] go unchallenged that Thomas Jefferson advised us to question the existence of God.

On the contrary, Mr. Jefferson attributed our liberties to our beliefs on the existence of God. He believed that we derived these liberties from God, and that each man's belief system should be answerable to God alone.

Jefferson wrote: "Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God?" (Notes on Virginia, 1782.)

Jefferson also believed that the foundations and structure of our government was a direct result of our belief in Jesus Christ. But he detested that the word of Christ had been perverted by various men in power within the church over the years, and did not believe in theocracies or state sponsored religion, which was quite prevalent in pre-Constitutional America.

He did, however, realize the danger of replacing a system of religious intolerance with one of political intolerance.

He wrote: "Having banished from our land that religious intolerance under which mankind so long bled and suffered, we have yet gained little if we countenance a political intolerance as despotic, as wicked, and capable of as bitter and bloody persecutions." (First Inaugural Address, 1801.)

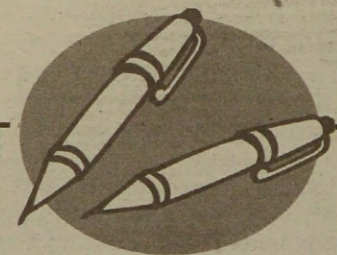
— **BOB CONLON**
Bedford, Texas

■ Immigration danger

Libertarians ought to be careful what they wish for. Open immigration might very well doom the cause of liberty in America. It is a boon to the statist (giving them more clients and more votes) and is hastening our march toward global socialism.

A borderless America means that there's really no such thing as American sovereignty; as a consequence, global governance will eventually and inevitably result.

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Framingham, MA 01702

THE MAILBOX

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Borderlessness is empowering America's most zealous enemies (Bin Laden is all for wide open borders in America!) and putting our most basic freedoms in peril.

It's hard to think of a more disastrously anti-freedom policy than that of borderlessness.

— **LOGAN FEYS**

Los Angeles, California

■ Wasted opportunity?

A golden opportunity has presented itself to fill the position of governor of a major state via the California recall election.

I had assumed the Libertarian Party leadership would get its act together, hold a mini-convention, and promote an attractive and talented candidate who could win this coveted seat. Considering the number of candidates running, it might be possible to win with less than 20% of the registered voters.

Then, in the September *LP News*, I read that there are multiple LP candidates. And to make matters worse, the leading LP candidate is running on a platform of "smoker's rights." In the current political environment, if the LP can't identify and promote more important themes than "smoker's rights" they should evaporate!

First of all, the rules against smoking in public areas, especially restaurants, is a classic example of why the

government must, on occasion intervene. It's a clear example of how thoughtless citizens will impose their irritating and dangerous preferences on the majority of the population.

— **C. MYERS**

Gordonsville, Virginia

■ **Editor's note:** *The Libertarian Party is a recognized major party in California, and subject to the same election laws as other political parties. Any registered Libertarian could file signatures (or pay a fee) and qualify to run for governor. The California LP did not have the option of holding a convention to nominate one candidate. Nor could the California LP legally stop any other Libertarian from qualifying for the ballot.*

■ Impeachable offense

According to LP Executive Director Joe Seehusen, Congress does not need to investigate the fraud and forgeries which President Bush had presented to justify attacking Iraq, because our government has deceived the American people before in order to launch earlier wars. [The Issues, August 2003].

However, this particular deception damaged the Constitution and the national interest far more than any prior propaganda campaign.

Congress should not only investigate, but if they find deception, they should impeach George W. Bush. Because this time, Congress never did

declare war; Congress took the extraordinary step of authorizing military force if necessary, and only if necessary, to disarm Iraq of the alleged weapons of mass destruction.

Although Senator Henry Byrd recognized the affront to the Constitution, Congress, placing incredible trust in President Bush, handed their decision-making power over to the executive branch.

George Bush did not just deceive Congress; he betrayed them. He lied and manipulated both before and after they gave him extraordinary power, never intended by the Constitution. Congress now has the duty to investigate this charge. If the president deceived them, Congress should impeach George W. Bush.

— **HARLAND HARRISON**

Belmont, California

■ America haters?

Have Libertarians turned into a bunch of America haters? Or do we have a large number of members totally ignorant of what's happening in the world?

I found the letter from Charles Prendergast in the August issue just

jaw-dropping ["1776 in Iraq?"]. What an insult to our nation and most importantly to our troops to say that the purpose of us being there is to kill women and children, rob them of their possessions, and generally wreak as much havoc as possible.

How can anyone not know that the people we are fighting in Iraq are not freedom fighters, but are Baath party thugs and foreign terrorists? What an insult to our forefathers to compare them to Saddam's goons and Al Qaeda. There is a lot more to being a freedom fighter than shooting at foreign troops — like wanting to give the people liberty as opposed to re-establishing a brutal dictatorship.

The letter is wrong in every detail. We did not turn "large areas of the country into rubble," nor did we destroy the infrastructure (Saddam did that). On the contrary, we went to extraordinary lengths to avoid hitting anything but military targets. Why? Because, corny as it may sound, we are a good nation. Our troops are not murdering oppressors, but are fine young men doing their best to help the Iraqis gain their freedom.

What a nasty, horrible duty they have — fighting a vicious, ruthless gang of thugs that blends in with the population, while at the same time trying to help the remainder of the people in every way possible. Hundreds of them have died fighting for our freedom. They deserve better than the likes of Prendergast's letter.

There were many good arguments against our going into Iraq and it's fine to argue against our involvement. But to accuse our troops of

being brutal oppressors, while calling the Saddam Feydaheen, et al. "freedom fighters," is just beyond the pale. I would expect to find such a hate filled anti-American diatribe in the paper of the Green Party or the Communist Party.

— **WALTER BALES**

Anaheim, California

■ No dues increase

In order for the Libertarian Party to thrive, the membership base must be greatly increased. Increasing dues would be counterproductive to this end as an increase in dues will certainly result in a decrease in membership [From the Chair, July 2003]. A significant increase in the membership base would result in a significant increase in the financial base.

The present membership numbers, or lack thereof, is appalling. I find it difficult to believe that more people do not find the Libertarian philosophy appealing.

I have tried to think of ways to reach more prospective voters, to make them aware of the party and its philosophy.

The only plan I have come up with is to distribute to waiting rooms (doctors, offices, auto service places, laundromats, etc.), old copies of *LP News* and/or copies of fliers such as the one titled, "Is this the new political party you've been looking for?"

My intention is to make such a distribution next spring or summer when the national and local campaigns begin to heat up.

— **JAMES M. YOUNG**

Reno, Nevada

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Joseph Bast
The Heartland Institute

A separation of art and state?

Continued from Page 18

got \$40,000 from the NEA for a folk festival; Rep. Anne Northup (R-KY), whose district got \$15,000 for a children's theater; and Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), whose district got \$12,500 for a symphony tour of rural communities.

For Republicans, "abolish" is apparently a synonym for "temporarily reduce funding until they start sending more cash to my constituents."

For Libertarians, the debate about the NEA has nothing to do with pork-barrel projects or indecency. As far as Libertarians are concerned, you have the absolute right to cover yourself in chocolate syrup and sell tickets, and others have the right to pay to see the spectacle. Just don't ask for tax dollars to buy the chocolate.

And that's the difference between Republicans and Libertarians. Republicans ask: "Is this obscene?" Libertarians ask: "Is this a legitimate function of government?" In the case of the NEA, the answer is clearly: "No."

But the argument against the NEA — indeed, against *all* government funding for the arts — goes beyond mere principle. There are also a number of practical reasons to oppose it:

1) Federal subsidies aren't needed for the arts to flourish.

Supporters of the NEA will frequently argue that federal funding is vitally necessary for the arts. That's simply not true. Government money is a drop in the bucket compared to what Americans voluntarily give to the arts.

According to the *Cato Handbook*, the NEA's budget is a mere 1% of the \$11.5 billion per year contributed to the arts by foundations, private corporations, and individuals. And it's an even smaller percentage of the \$53 billion that is annually spent on the nonprofit arts industry.

And that number, in turn, is dwarfed by the total dollar amount that Americans spend on entertainment of all kinds, which Price-WaterhouseCoopers estimated will hit \$443 billion in 2004.

Given Uncle Sam's insignificant contribution to the arts, the *Cato Handbook* noted, "Surely [artists] will survive without whatever portion of the NEA's budget gets out of the Washington bureaucracy and into the



■ Andres Serrano's NEA-funded "Piss Christ" roused the wrath of the GOP. But while Republicans ask: "Is this obscene?" Libertarians ask: "Is this a legitimate function of government?"

hands of actual artists or arts institutions."

American artists also seemed to get along just fine before the NEA came along. As the Heritage Foundation's Edwin J. Feulner noted, "The NEA didn't exist before 1965, but that didn't stop Tennessee Williams and Frederic Remington from blessing us with their works."

2) Federal subsidies force the poor and middle class to pay for rich people's art.

It's no surprise that Washington, DC bureaucrats tend to fund art that Washington, DC bureaucrats are most likely to attend: Museums, operas, symphonies, and so on.

That's why, in a 1997 report for the Heritage Foundation, Laurence Jarvik, Ph.D. wrote: "NEA grants offer little more than a subsidy to the well-to-do."

The 2003 *Cato Handbook for Congress* made the same argument: "Since art museums, symphony orchestras, humanities scholarships, and public television and radio are enjoyed pre-

dominantly by people of greater than-average income and education, the federal cultural agencies oversee a fundamentally unfair transfer of wealth from the lower classes up."

The NEA sometimes argues that its programs bring art to the poor, who might otherwise not be able to afford it. But that doesn't seem to be the case. Economist Dick Netzer reported that NEA programs had "failed to increase the representation of low-income people in audiences."

As the *Cato Handbook* noted: "Lower-income people are not interested in the kind of entertainment they're forced to support; they prefer to put their money into forms of art often sneered at by the cultural elite. Why must they continue to finance the pleasures of the affluent?"

3) Federal subsidies politicize art.

In recent decades, we've seen conservatives denounce NEA-funded "obscene" art, liberals denounce the Library of Congress for an exhibit on Pre-Civil War slave life, and veterans denounce the Smithsonian for a display on the Hiroshima bombing.

Novelist George Garrett predicted this when he said, "Whenever the government is involved in the arts, then it is bound to be a political and social business, a battle between competing factions."

Along the same lines, when bureaucrats hand out funding, decisions will be frequently made not for artistic reasons — but for political or ideological reasons.

Some examples: The Heartland Institute's Laurence Jarvik reported that the NEA hands out money based on political correctness (in 1993, Roger Kimball reported that the agency made grants based on "quotas and politically correct thinking"), or shock value (in 1996, the Phoenix Art Museum hosted an NEA-funded exhibit featuring an American flag in a toilet), or energetic lobbying (Alice Goldfarb Marquis estimated that half of NEA funds go to groups that lobby the government for more money).

How do we prevent this? In a 1995

speech to the Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts, Cato Institute Vice President David Boaz offered a simple solution: "To avoid political battles over how to spend the taxpayers' money, we would be well advised to establish the separation of art and state."

Conclusion

Let's end with a pop culture quiz. Which of the following pieces of art did the government help pay for?

- 1) The greatest American novel of the 20th century (according to the Board of the Modern Library): *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald.
- 2) The best-selling album of all time: *The Eagles Greatest Hits*.
- 3) The longest-running Broadway

play of all time: *Cats*.

4) The highest-valued American painting of all time (sold at auction for \$30 million): *Lost On The Grand Banks* by Winslow Homer.

5) The highest-grossing movie of all time: *Titanic*.

Answer: None of them. When individuals value a particular artistic work, they are happy to pay to acquire it or attend it. It's only when people don't value something enough to pay for it that the government must step in.

In the satirical British TV show, *Yes, Minister*, one character noted that art subsidies don't need to be handed out for "what the people want. It is for what the people don't want. If they want something, they'll pay for it themselves." Indeed.

UPCOMING

■ January 6, 2004

Patrick Henry Supper Club, China Buffet Restaurant, Richmond, Virginia. Speaker: Parrish Mort (Virginia Home Education Association). For information, e-mail Leonard T. Harris at: leonard@richmondliberty.org.

■ January 31, 2004

Arizona LP Convention, Viscount Suite Hotel, Tucson. Speakers TBA. For information, visit: www.azlp.org. Or call: (602) 248-8425. Or e-mail: lpaz-info@cox.net.

■ February 6-8, 2004

Florida LP Convention, Holiday Inn-University Center, Gainesville. Speakers TBA. For information, visit: www.geocities.com/gilsonde/LPF2004Conv.html. Or call: (800) 478-0555.

■ March 12-14, 2004

California LP Convention, San Jose DoubleTree Hotel, San Jose. Speakers TBA. For information, e-mail: mark@garlic.com. Or visit: www.ca.LP.org.

■ March 27, 2004

Arkansas LP Convention, Hot Springs Convention Center, Hot Springs, Arkansas. Speakers TBA. For information, e-mail: bfarlp@leapfroginet.com. Or call: (866) 244-7341. Or write: Arkansas LP, P.O. Box 15214, Little Rock, AR 72231.

■ May 27-31, 2004

Libertarian Presidential Nominating Convention, Marriott Atlanta Marquis Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia. Speakers TBA. Questions, comments, suggestions, e-mail: convention@hq.LP.org.

■ October 28-31, 2004

Cato University Fall Weekend Seminar: "Arguments for Liberty: How to Defend Individual Rights and Limited Government," Le Chateau Frontenac, Quebec City, Canada. Sponsored by the Cato Institute. Speakers include Tom Palmer (director, Cato University), Don Boudreaux (Department of Economics, George Mason University), and Robert A. Sirico (Acton Institute). For information, visit: www.cato-university.org.

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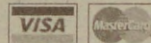


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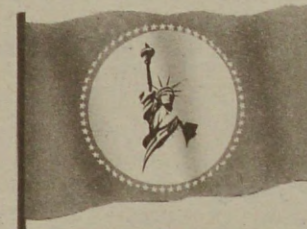
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LP NEWS EDITOR

Bill Winter

CONTACT LP NEWS

1640 Worcester Road, #330-D

Framingham, MA 01702

Phone: (508) 820-7340

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UPCOMING

October 7, 2003

Patrick Henry Supper Club, China Buffet Restaurant, Richmond, Virginia. Speaker: Peter Ferrara (president, Virginia Club for Growth). For information, e-mail Leonard T. Harris at: leonard@richmondliberty.org.

October 16, 2003

Heartland Institute's 19th Anniversary Benefit Dinner, Hilton Chicago Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. Speakers include Robert Poole (founder, Reason Foundation), Rev. Floyd Flake (former Congressman), Brian Wesbury (economic forecaster), Scott Hodge, (executive director, Tax Foundation), and M. Stanton Evans (comic). For information, visit: www.heartland.org. Or call: (312) 377-4000.

October 16-19, 2003

"Toward a Free and Virtuous Society" Student Conference, Dawsonville, Georgia. Sponsored by the Acton Institute. An "introduction to the principles of liberty" for students of religion and theology. For information, call: (616) 454-3080. Or visit: www.acton.org.

October 18-19, 2003



The Freedom Summit, Best Western Grace Inn at Ahwatukee, Phoenix, Arizona. An "annual seminar dedicated to promoting and advancing human freedom." Speakers include Nathaniel Branden (author, *The Six Pillars of Self-Esteem*), Ron Paul (Congressman, R-TX), Richard Boddie (past California LP U.S. Senate candidate), Harry Browne (1996 and 2000 LP presidential candidate), Boston T. Party (author, *You and the Police*), Vin Suprynowicz (syndicated columnist), and Marc Victor (attorney). For information, visit: www.freedomsummit.com.

October 25, 2003

Sixth Annual Colorado LP Awards Banquet and Workshop Day, Ramada Inn, Colorado Springs. Speakers include Sharon Harris (president, Advocates for Self-Government). For information, call Nancy Graves: (719) 570-0747. Or e-mail: ladynancy@pcisys.net. Or visit: http://lpep.org/Special_Event/banquet.php.

November 1, 2003

New Hampshire LP Convention, Highlander Inn, Manchester. Speakers include Craig Benson (governor, New Hampshire) and Richard Boddie (president, The Motivators). For information, call: (800) 559-LPNH. Or write: LPNH, P.O. Box 5293, Manchester, NH 03108.



November 4, 2003

Patrick Henry Supper Club, China Buffet Restaurant, Richmond, Virginia. Speaker: Keith Murphy (Mid-Atlantic Coordinator, Free State Project). For information, e-mail Leonard Harris at: leonard@richmondliberty.org.

November 5, 2003

Reason 35th Anniversary Banquet, Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel, Beverly Hills, California. Speakers TBA. For information, visit: www.reason.org/anniversary.html.

November 6-9, 2003

Freedom Fest 2003: "Where Free Minds Meet," Bally's and Paris, Las Vegas. Speakers include Ron Crickenberger (former LP political director). For information, visit: www.freedomfest.com. Or call: (800) USA-1776.

November 6-9, 2003

"Toward a Free and Virtuous Society" Student Conference, North Bend, Washington. Sponsored by the Acton Institute. An "introduction to the principles of liberty" for students of religion and theology. For information, call: (616) 454-3080. Or visit: www.acton.org.

November 22-23, 2003

The 2003 Reclaim Democracy Conference, Convention Center, Washington, DC. Sponsored by the Center for Voting and Democracy. The conference will focus on ways to "secure, enhance, and exercise the power of the right to vote." Speakers TBA. For information, visit: www.democracyusa.org/events/conference.html.

For more Upcoming Events, see page 22

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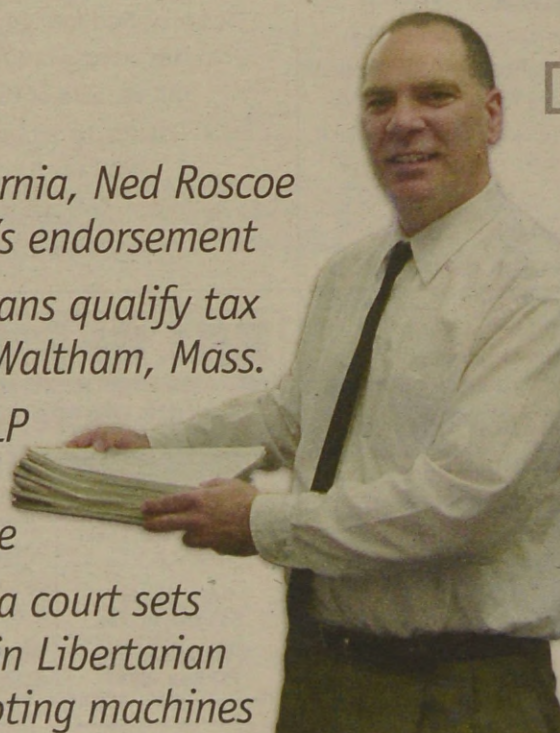
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FIRST WORD

"Vote against incumbents. If unsure, vote only for Libertarian candidates, as they are the largest and best organized third party that can really terrorize both Democrats and Republicans into doing the right thing. Libertarians are dedicated to obeying the Constitution."

— TED LANG, *SierraTimes.com*, August 18, 2003

"The libertarian values of the founding fathers infused American culture with a live-and-let-live attitude. A majority of U.S. citizens still wrinkle their noses at any proposal that smacks of increased government regulation."

— DAINTRY DUFFY, *CSO Magazine*, August 2003

"As [President George W.] Bush continues to blur the differences between the two old parties, many will view a Libertarian vote as a more viable option. At some point, Americans fed up with bigger government and declining freedoms will seek out a candidate willing to say enough is enough. With polls showing that up to 16% of the electorate is philosophically libertarian, this could be the real swing vote in 2004."

— LEX CONCORD, *SierraTimes.com*, September 4, 2003